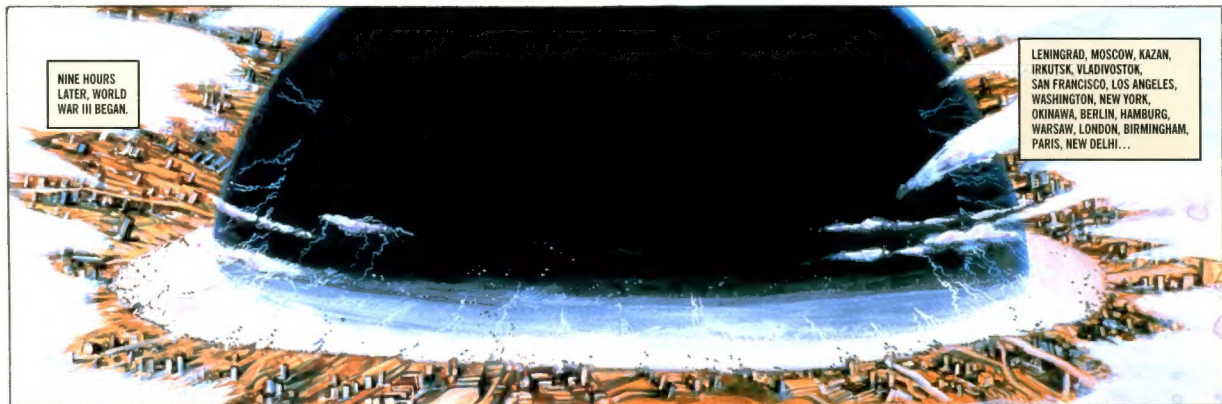
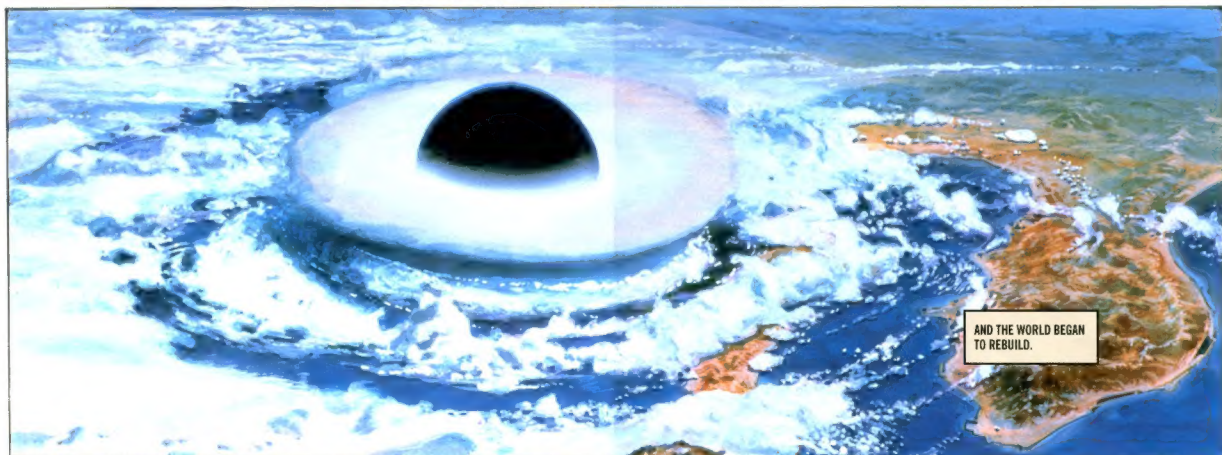


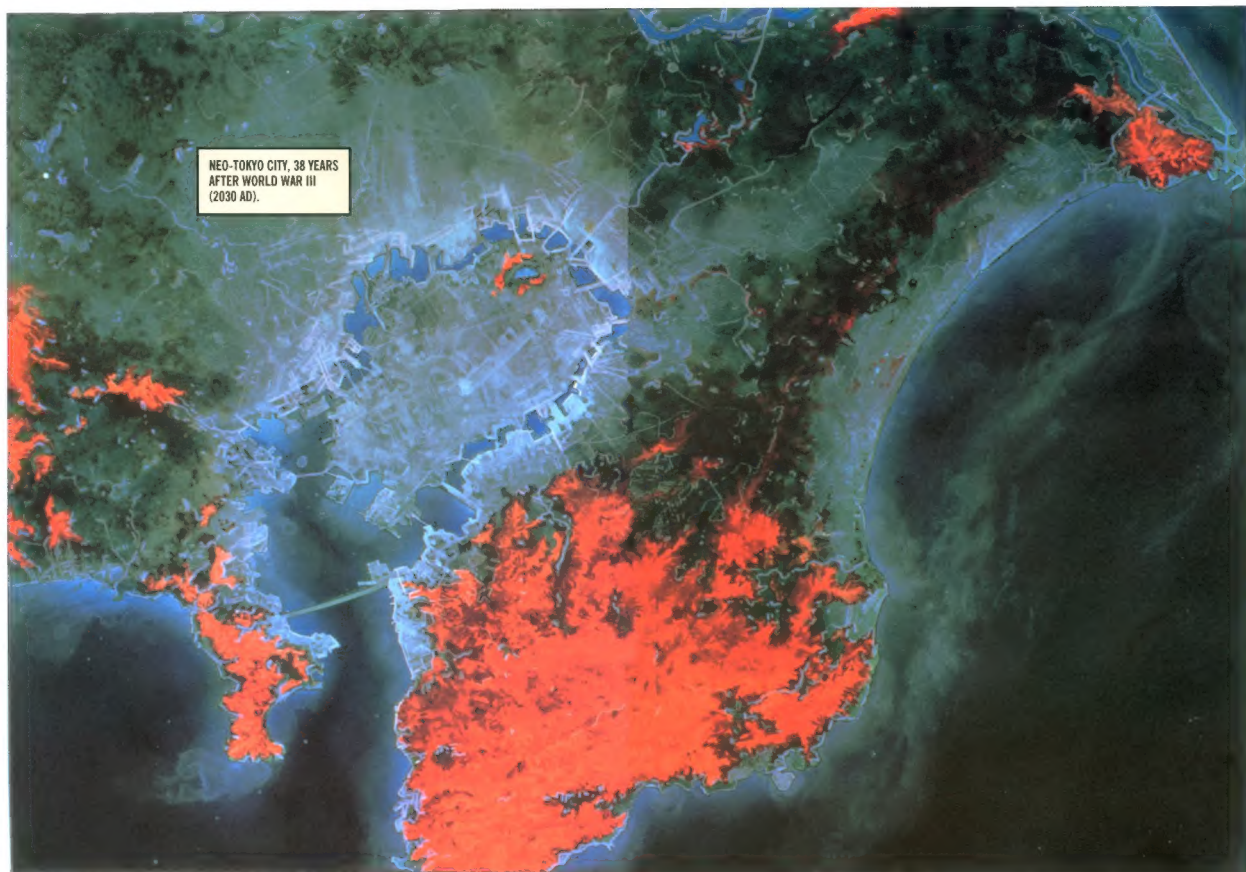


NINE HOURS
LATER, WORLD
WAR III BEGAN.

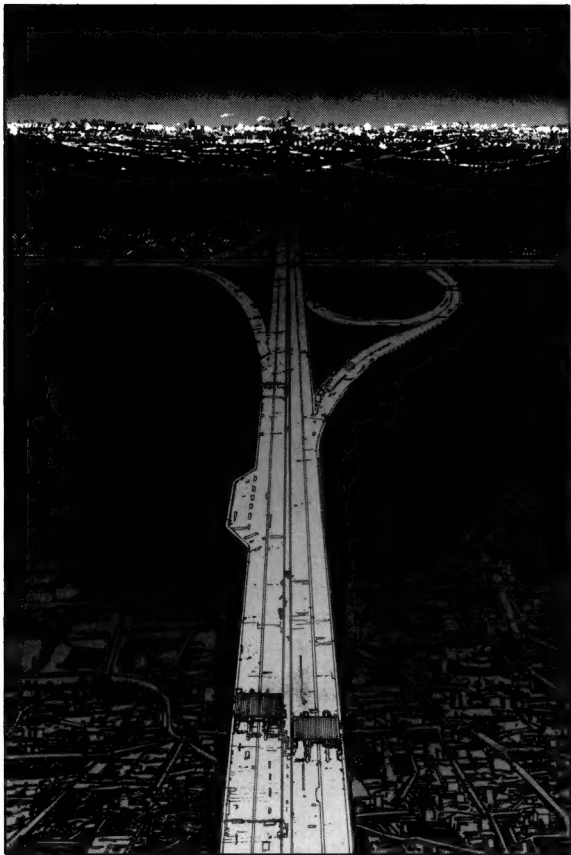
LENINGRAD, MOSCOW, KAZAN,
IRKUTSK, VLADIVOSTOK,
SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES,
WASHINGTON, NEW YORK,
OKINAWA, BERLIN, HAMBURG,
WARSAW, LONDON, BIRMINGHAM,
PARIS, NEW DELHI...

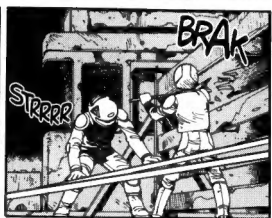
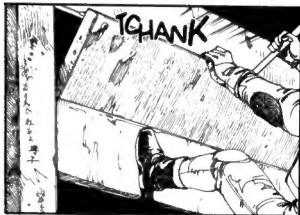
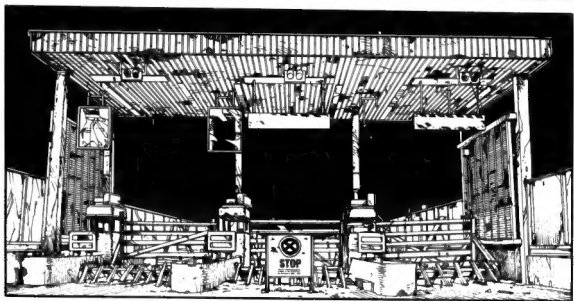
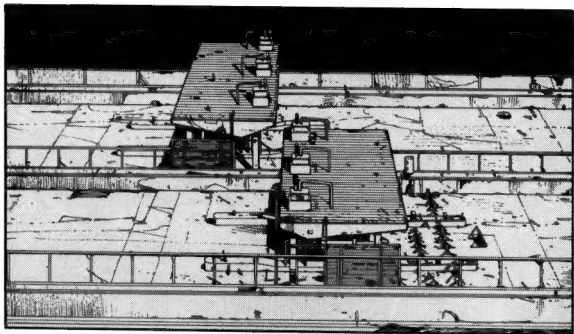


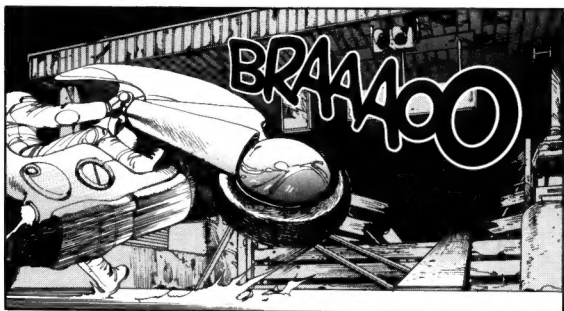
AND THE WORLD BEGAN
TO REBUILD.

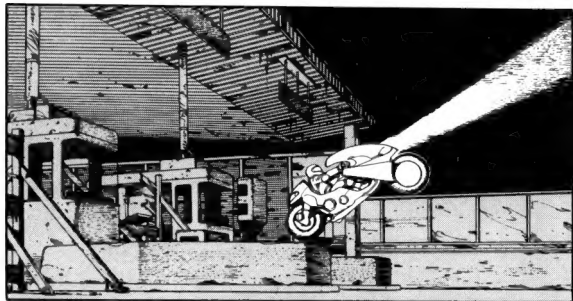


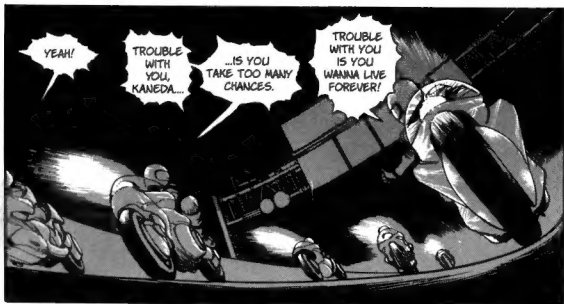
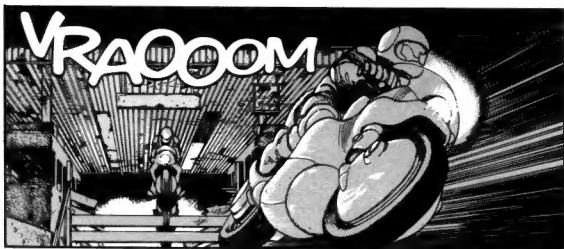
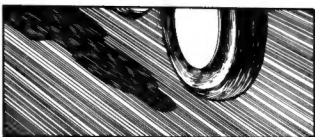


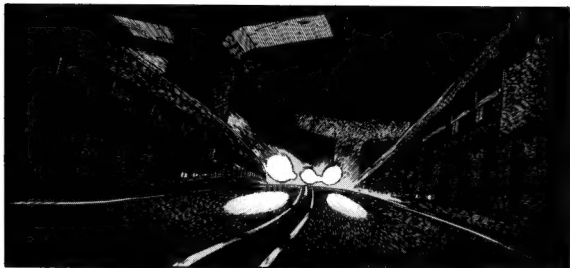




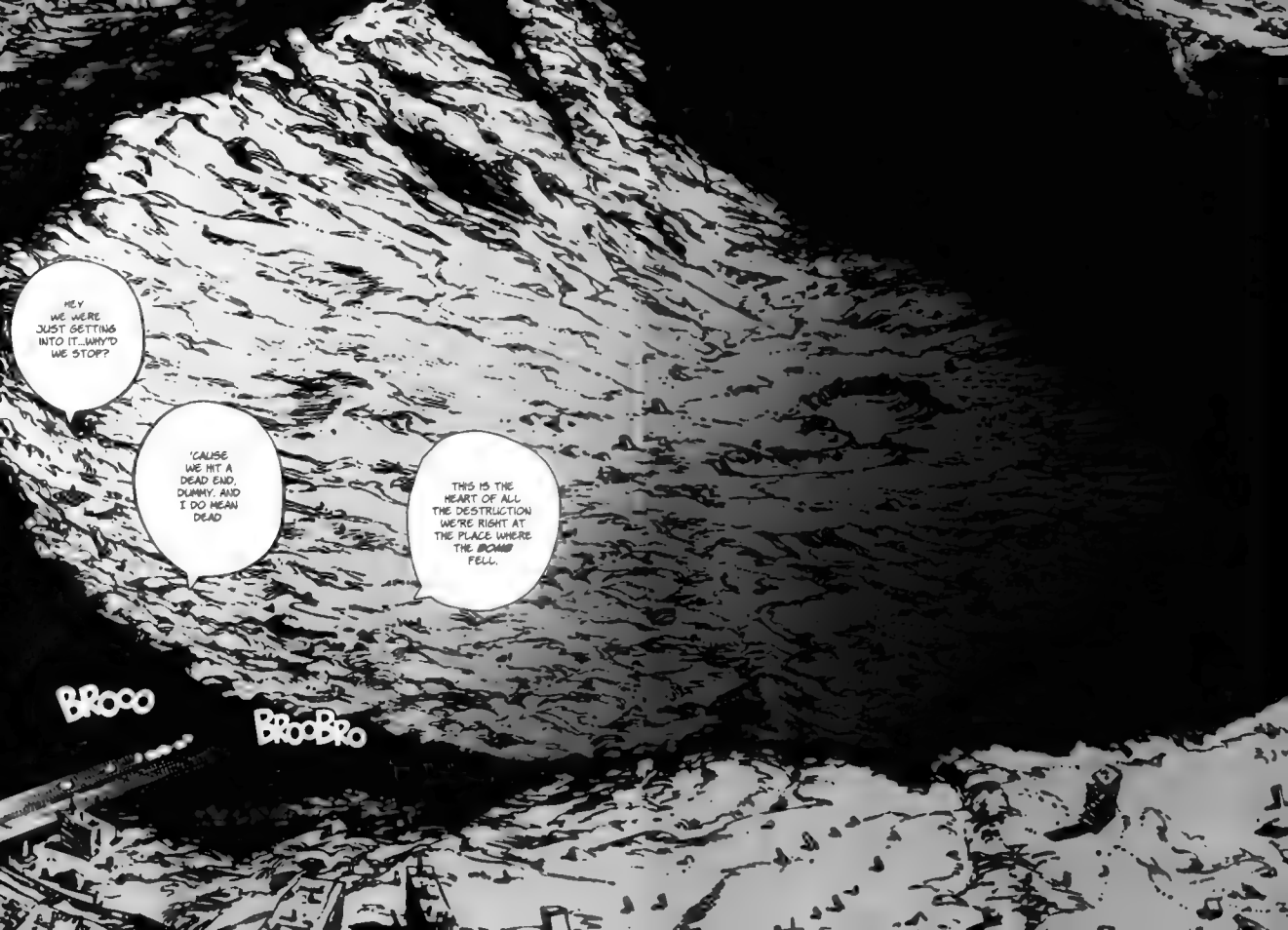












HEY
WE WERE
JUST GETTING
INTO IT...WHY'D
WE STOP?

'CAUSE
WE HIT A
DEAD END,
DUMMY. AND
I DO MEAN
DEAD

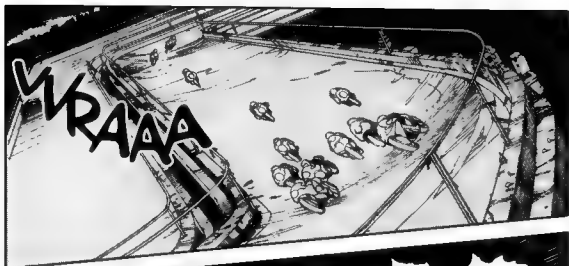
THIS IS THE
HEART OF ALL
THE DESTRUCTION
WE'RE RIGHT AT
THE PLACE WHERE
THE BROWNS
FELL.

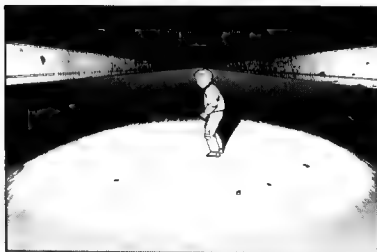
Brooo

BrooBro

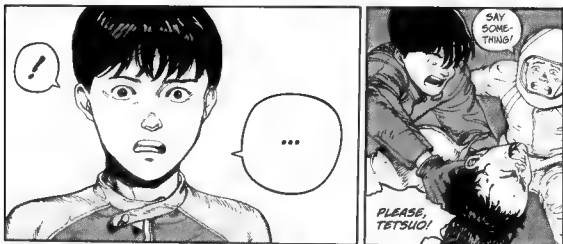


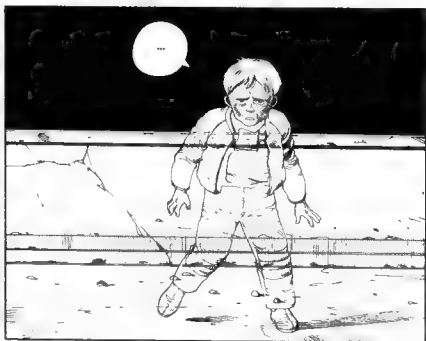




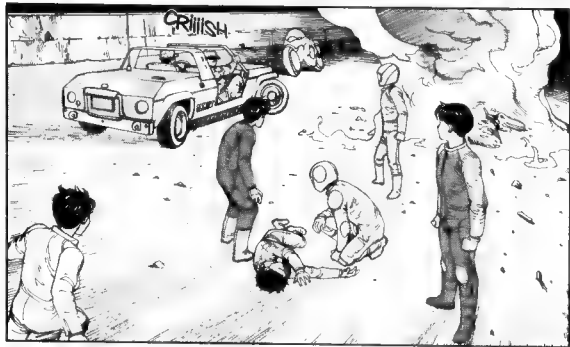


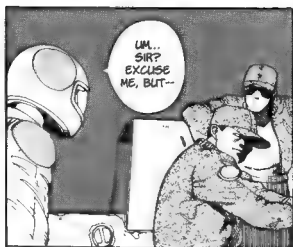


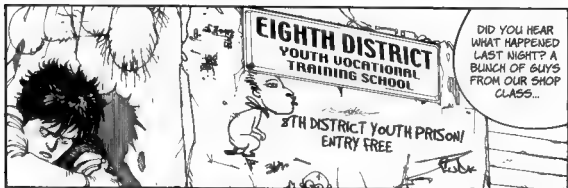
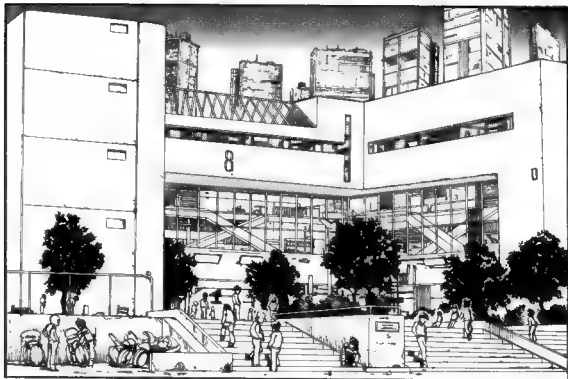


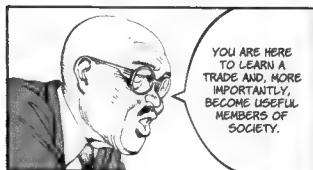
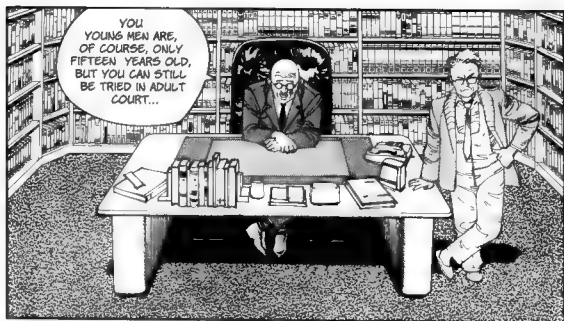


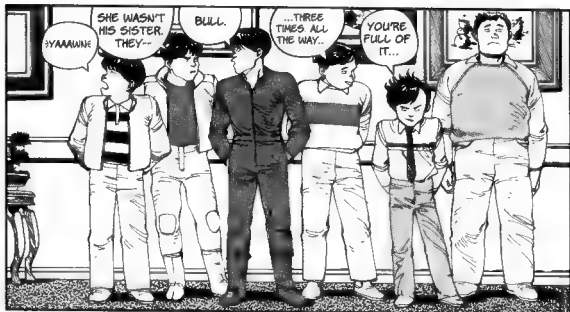


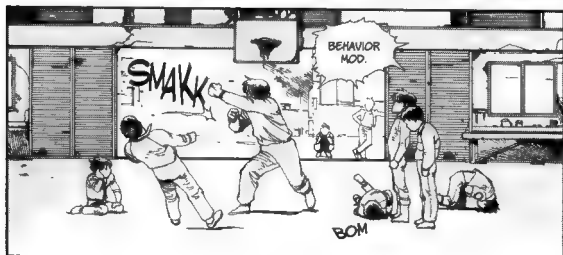
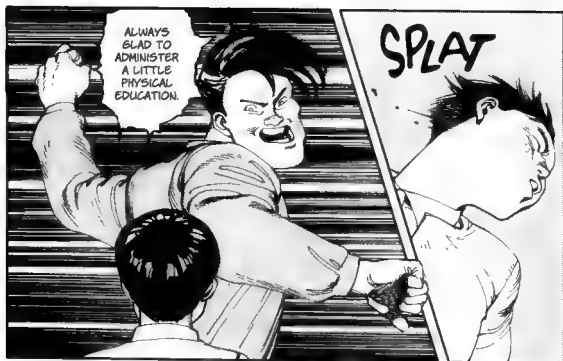


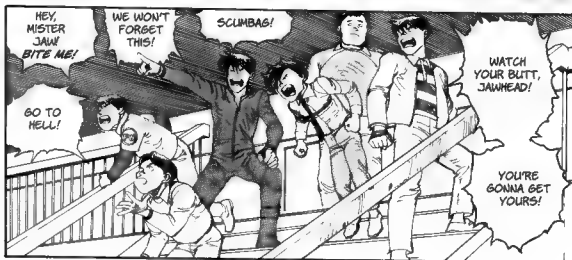


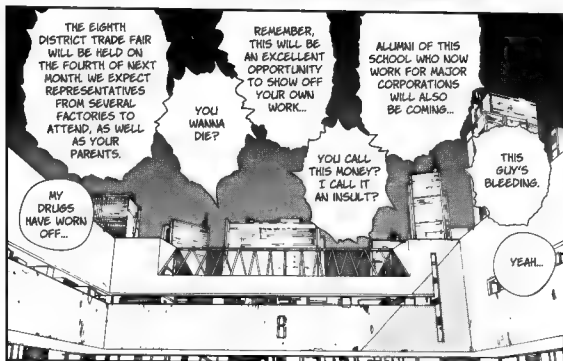


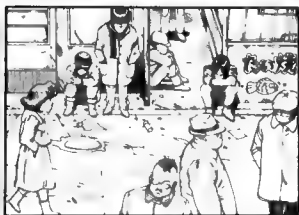
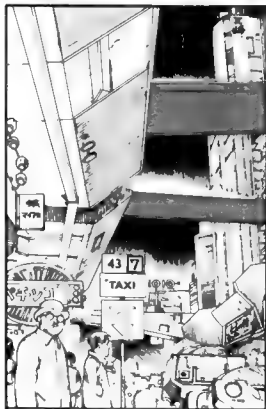
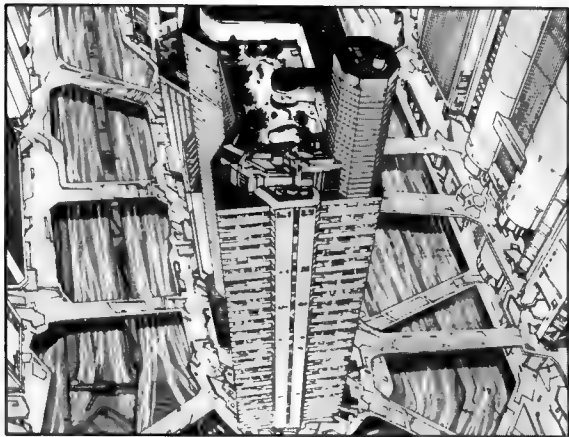
















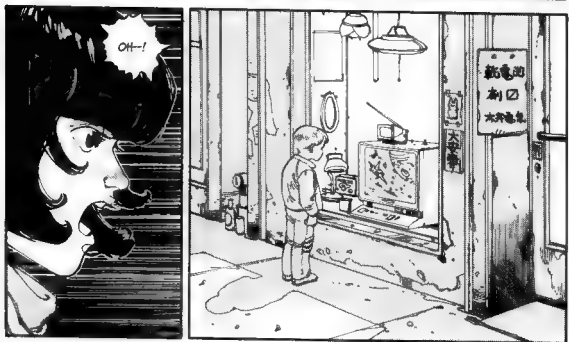
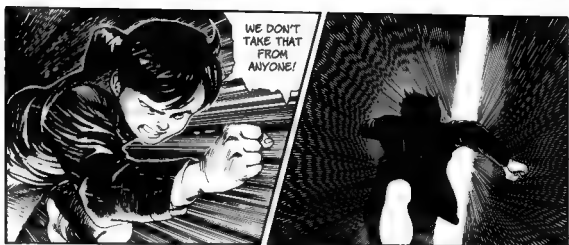


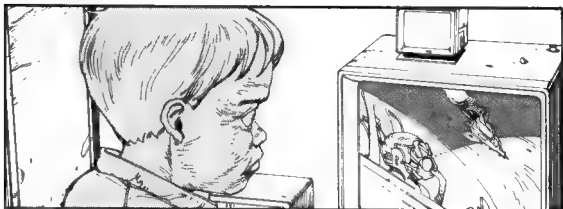






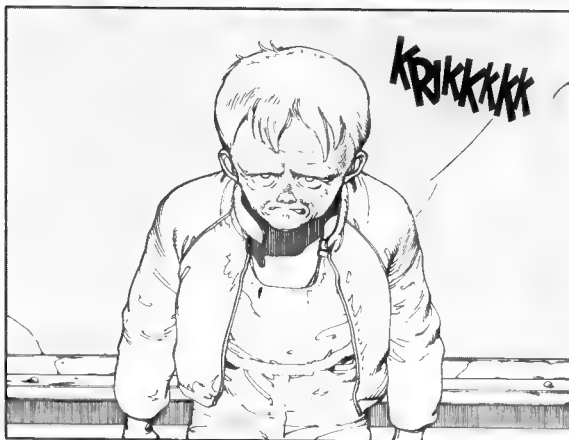






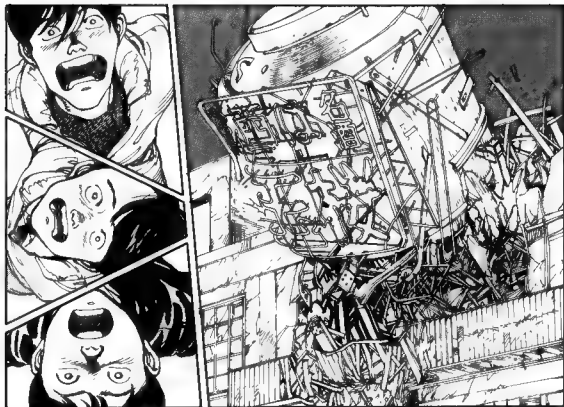














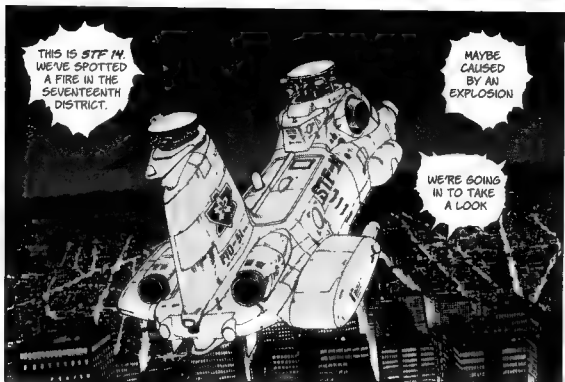


SMOKE
AT 9
O'CLOCK!



LOOKS LIKE
IT'S IN THE
SEVENTEENTH
DISTRICT!

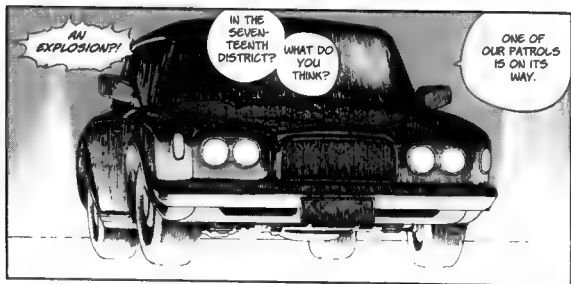
EMERGENCY!
EMERGENCY!

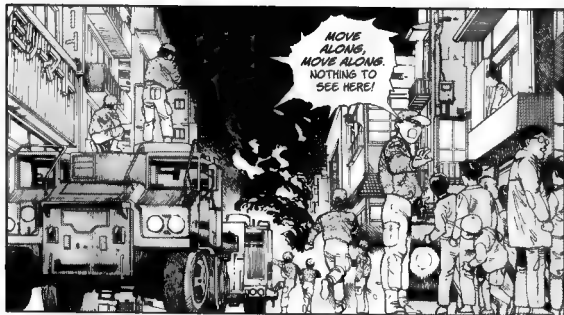


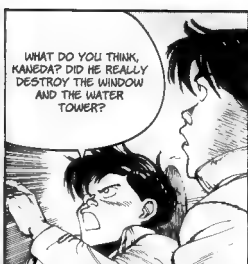
THIS IS STF 14.
WE'VE SPOTTED
A FIRE IN THE
SEVENTEENTH
DISTRICT.

MAYBE
CAUSED
BY AN
EXPLOSION

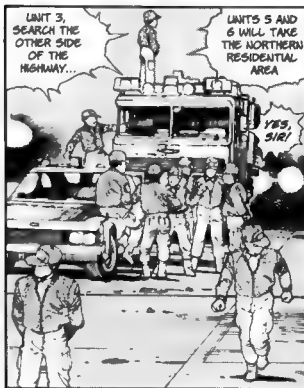
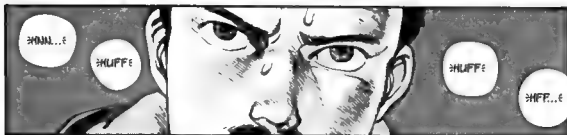
WE'RE GOING
IN TO TAKE
A LOOK













UNIT 3,
WE'LL GO
ON AHEAD.

RIGHT!

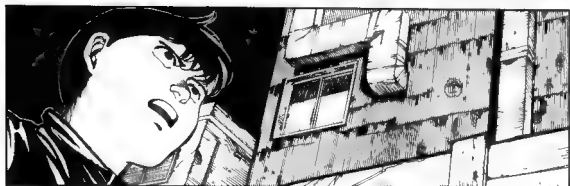


QUIT
SHOVING!

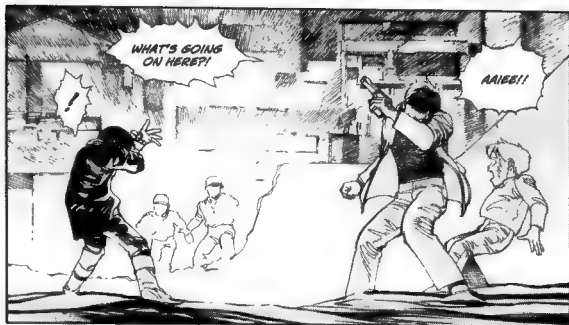




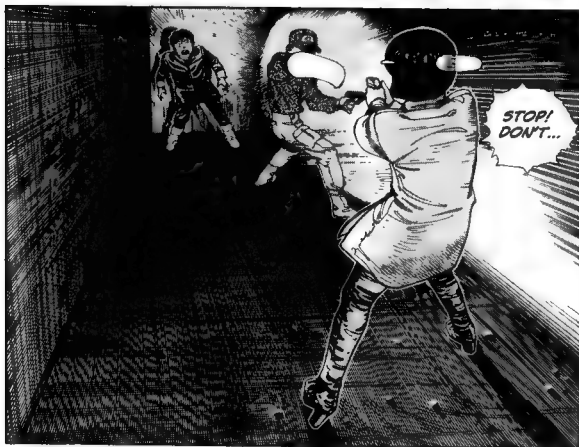
















KSHIII



WHOOA--!

TCOOOF

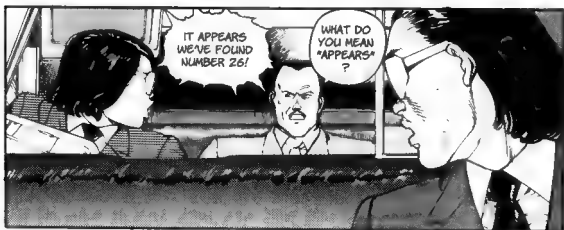


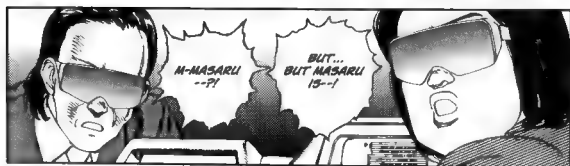
BLAM

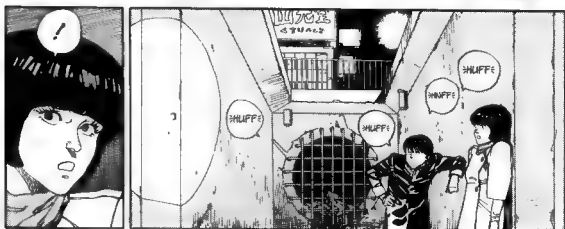


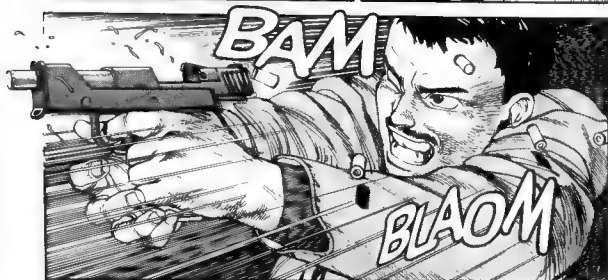
THEY'RE
IN THE
SHOPPING
CENTER!

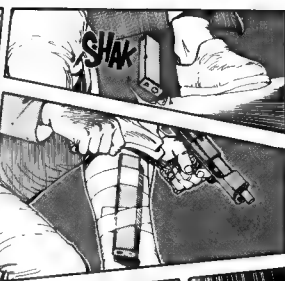
CIRCLE
AROUND THE
OTHER SIDE
AND CUT
THEM OFF!

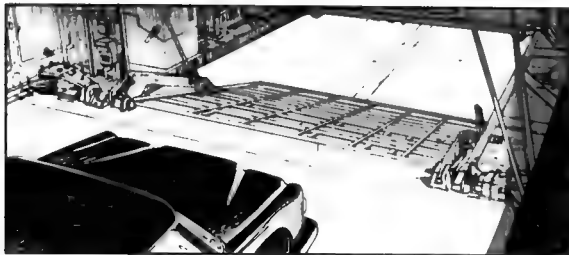
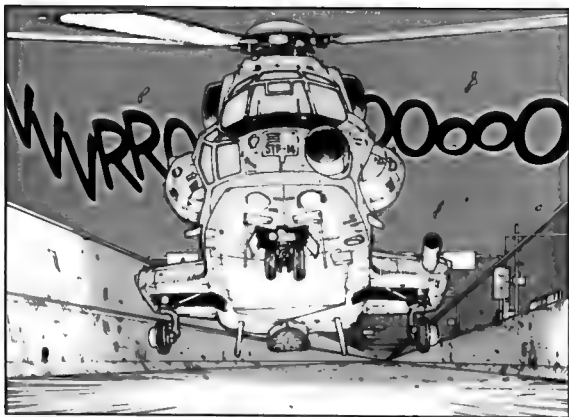


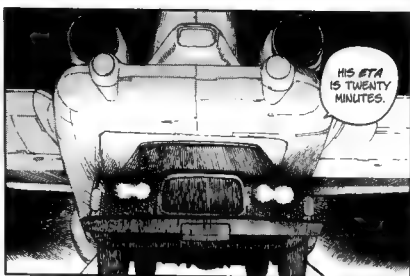


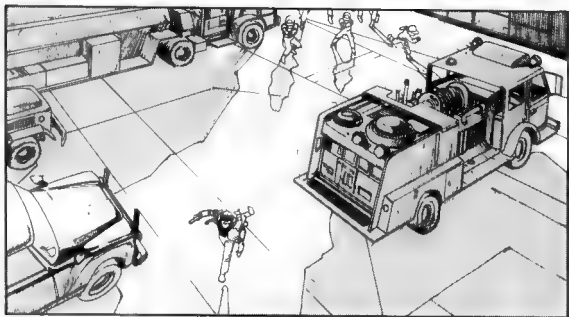
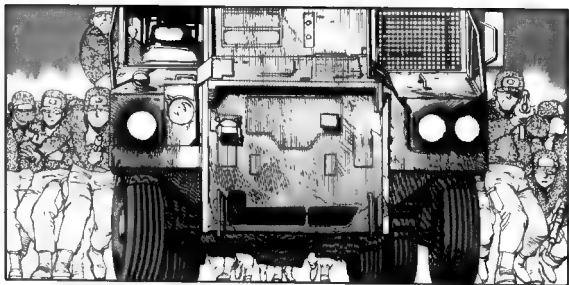


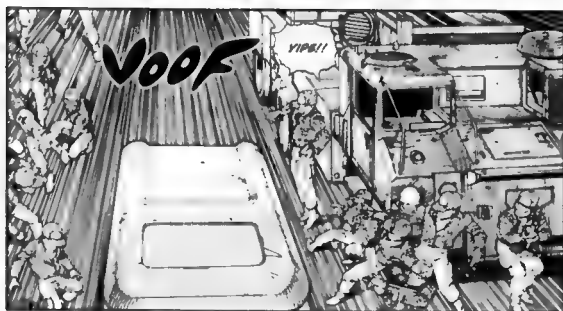




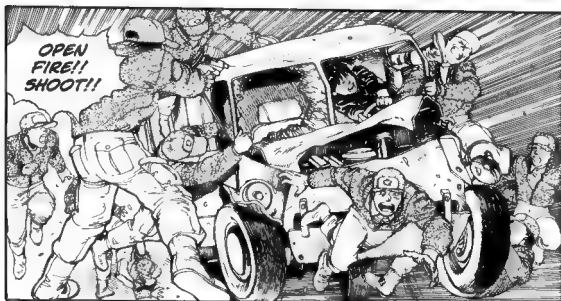


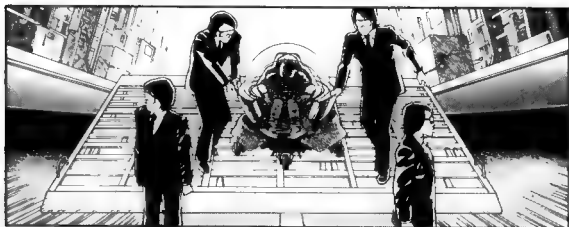
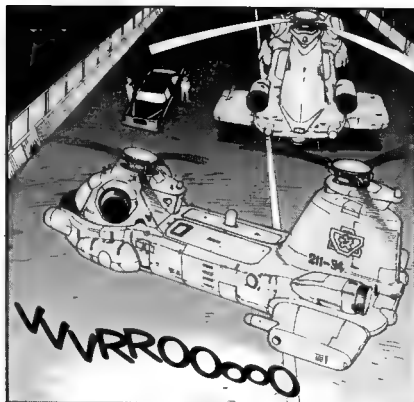


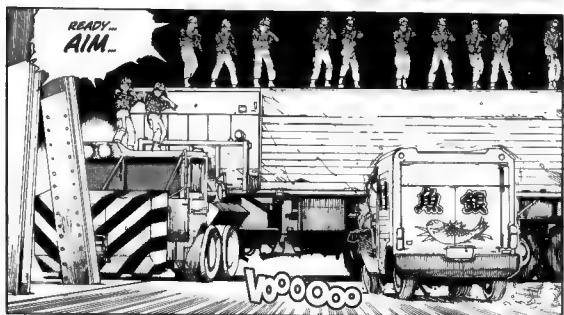


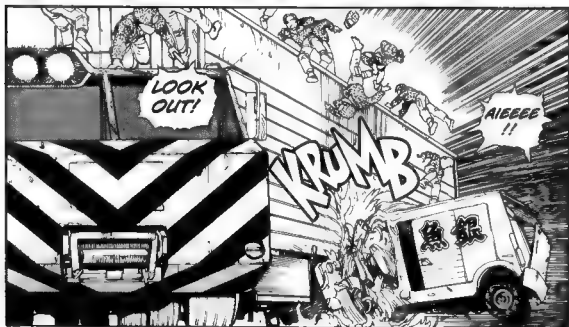






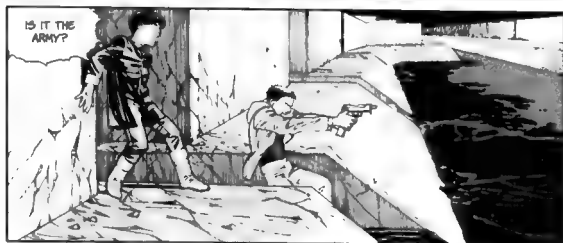
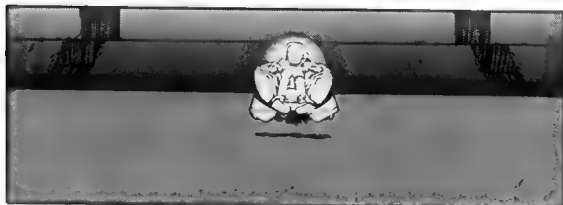














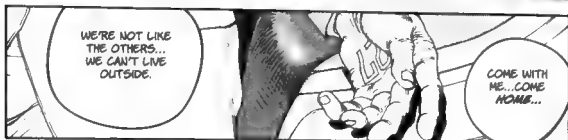
TAKASHI
--PI!



IS
THAT
YOUR
NAME?!



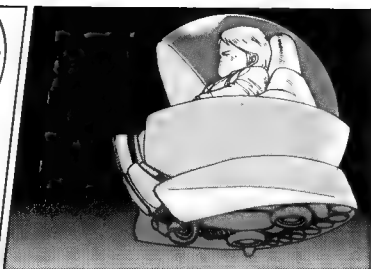
I'VE
COME TO
TAKE YOU
BACK.



WE'RE NOT LIKE
THE OTHERS...
WE CAN'T LIVE
OUTSIDE.

COME WITH
ME...COME
HOME...



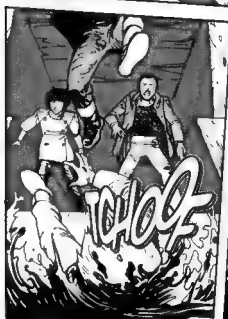


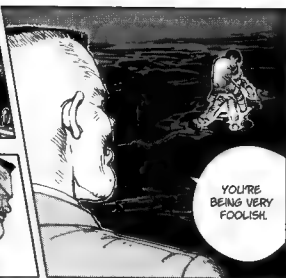




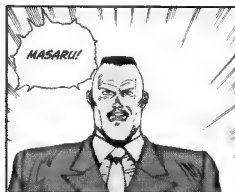
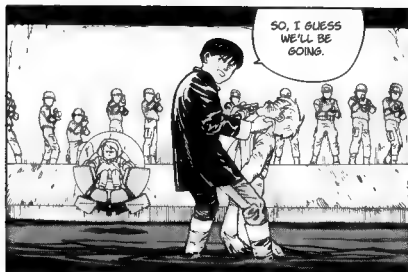
EVEN
SO, I'M
IMPRESSED
YOU GOT
THIS FAR.













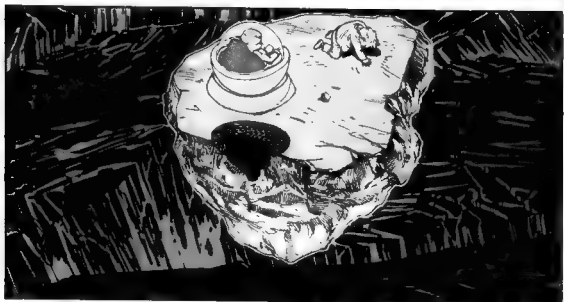
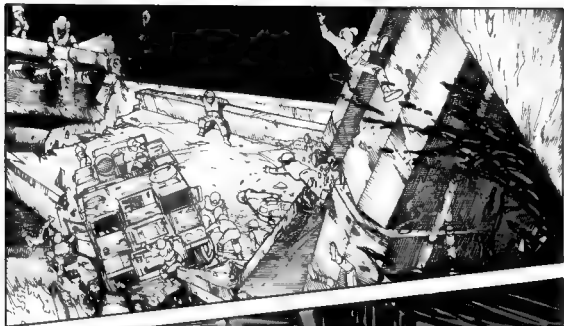


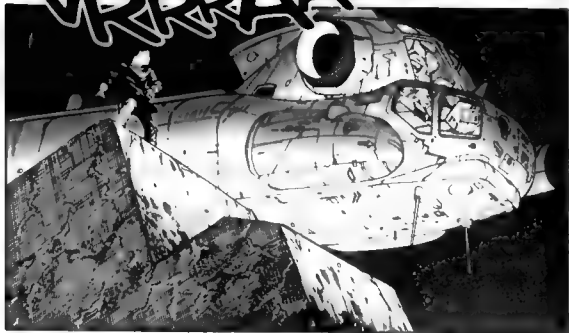


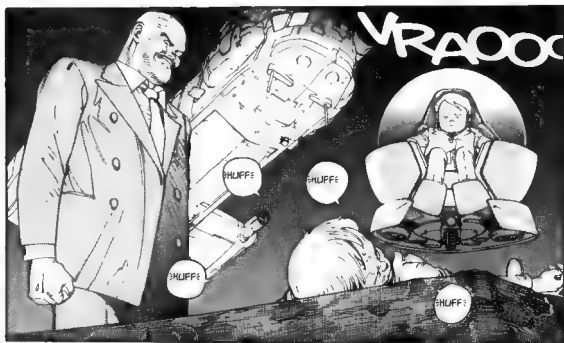
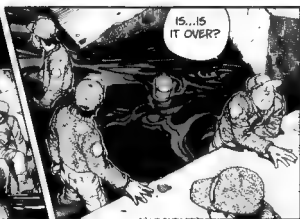




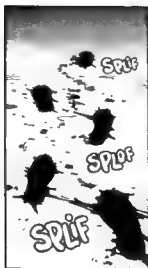


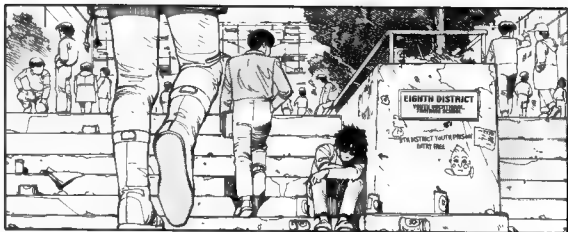


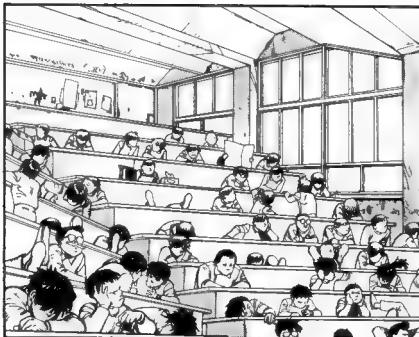












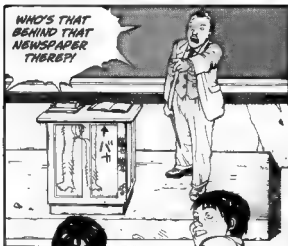
JAPAN TIMES

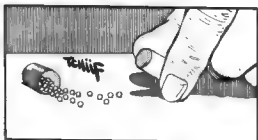
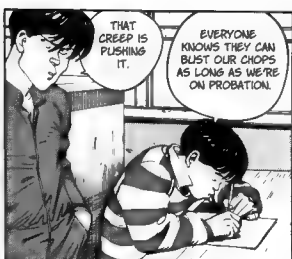
A WEEK AFTER EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT DISASTER, CANAL REPAIRS STILL DELAYED

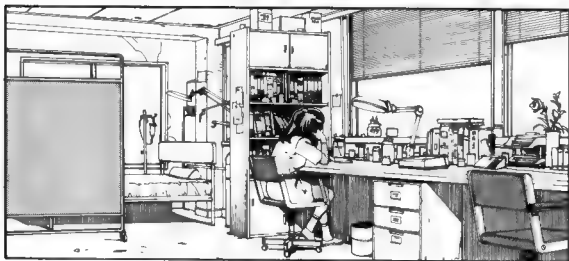
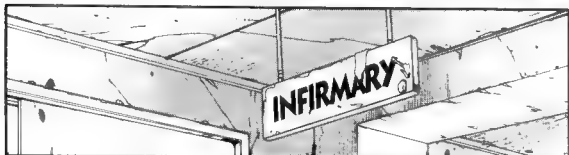
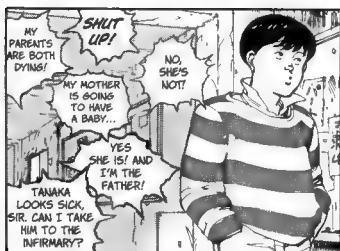
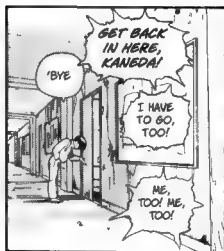
On the Department of Sewers today that delays in the repair work canal in the 18th District continuation of the raining for an additional aspect first sentence the meeting will be in 17th District Mr Kohada said condemned the extension saying "How long does it take Considering what we pay in full service restored by now"



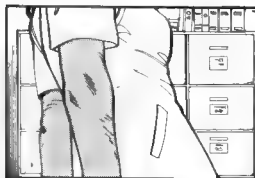
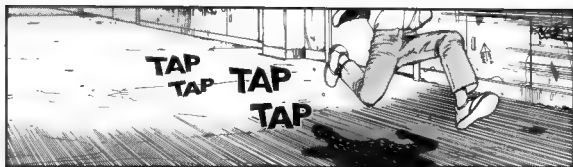
Kazuyuki Saito of the Department of Sewers also commented on rumors that the collapse of the canal was caused by inadequate construction. "Our staff is examining the damaged area comparing it to the approved plans not ruling out anything at this point the construction company responsible for the work, Ohmori General Con

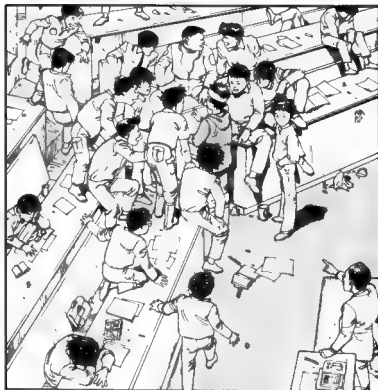


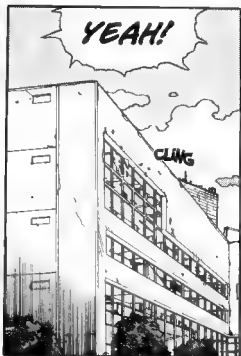
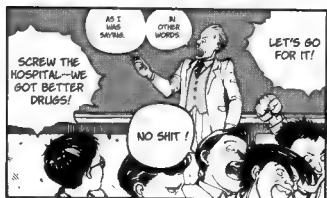


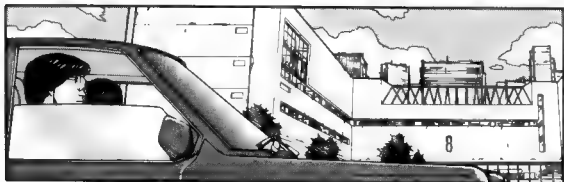
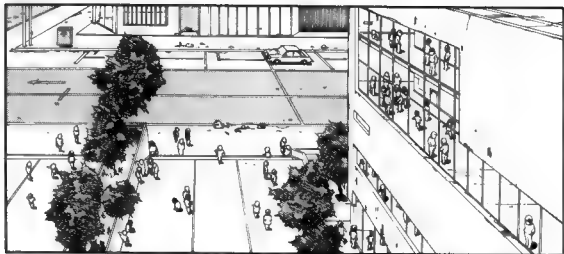














WHERE DID
THAT STUFF
YOU GAVE
ME EARLIER
COME FROM?



DID YOU FIND
OUT WHAT IT
IS?



PART OF IT...
BUT IT CONTAINED
CERTAIN ELEMENTS THAT
DEFIED ANALYSIS, AT
LEAST BY OUR
EQUIPMENT.



SO, DON'T
KEEP ME IN
SUSPENSE. THE
GANG IS STILL
WAITING FOR
THEIR STUFF,
YOU KNOW.



COMPARED TO
WHAT WAS IN YOUR
PILL, THOSE ARE
CANDY. ONE GRAIN IS
FIVE TIMES AS
POWERFUL AS THE
ENTIRE CONTENTS
OF THAT BAG.



WHAT?



IF SOMEONE
TOOK THE WHOLE
THING, HE'D GO
MAD... OR
DIE.

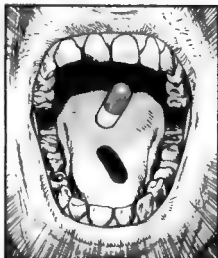


HMM



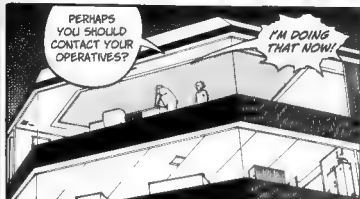
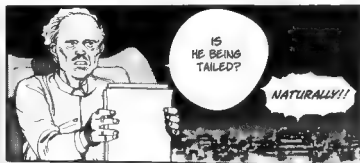
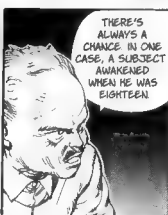
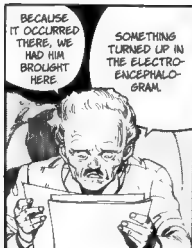
ONE
MORE
THING...





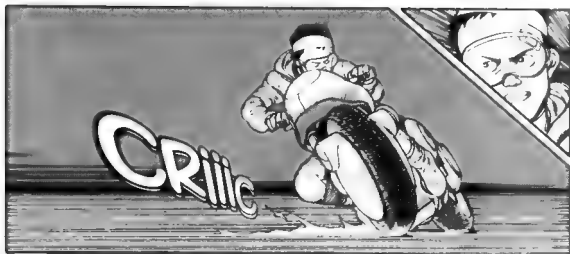
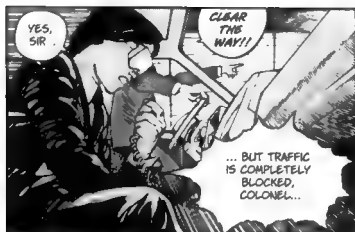


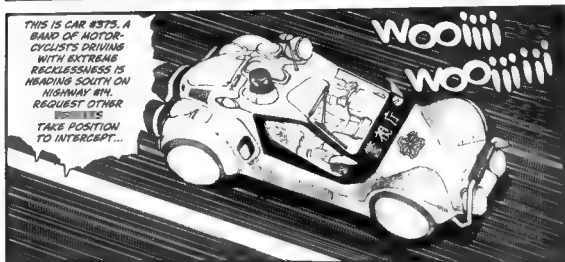
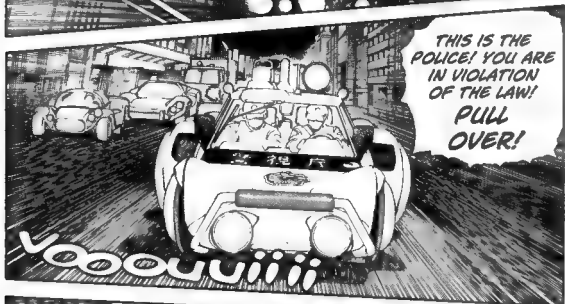


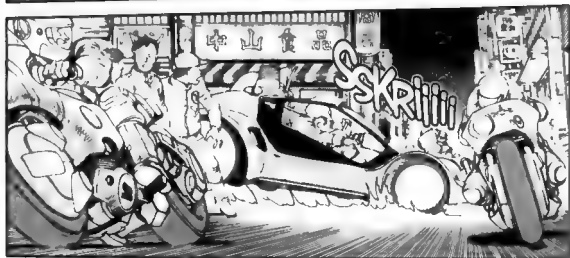
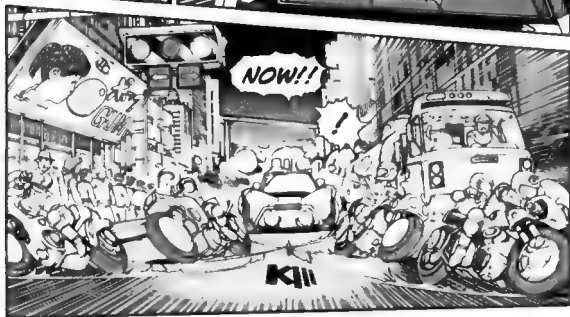


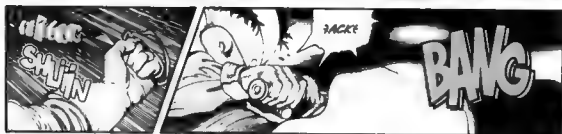
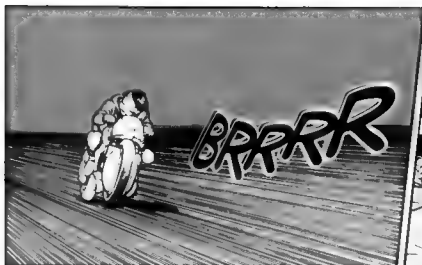


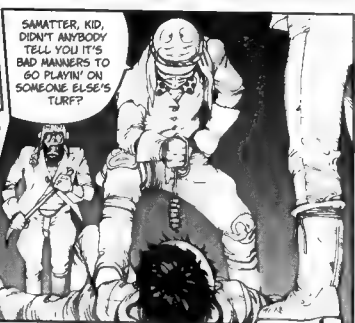






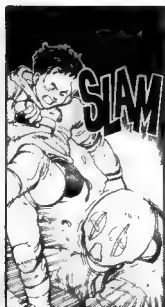






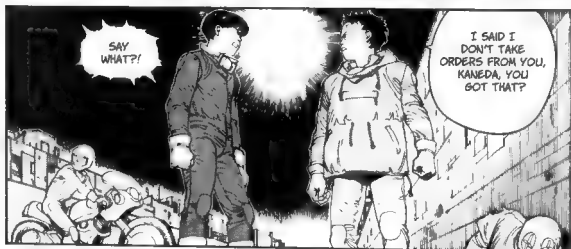








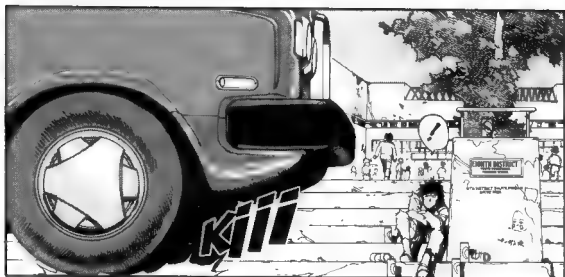
I DON'T
TAKE ORDERS
FROM YOU.



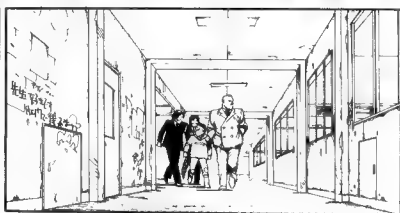
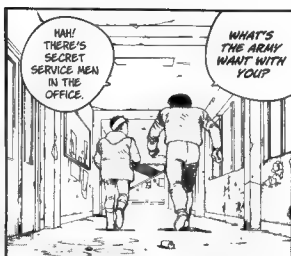
SAY
WHAT?!

I SAID I
DON'T TAKE
ORDERS FROM YOU,
KANEDA, YOU
GOT THAT?

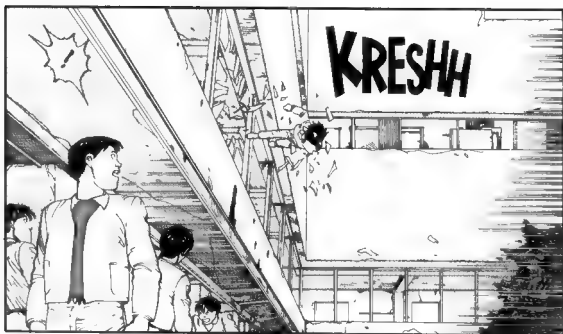


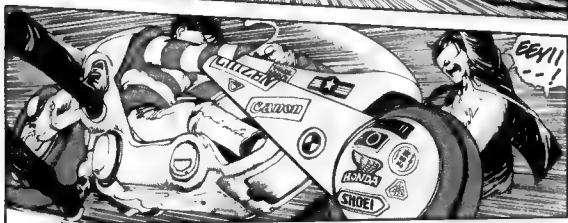




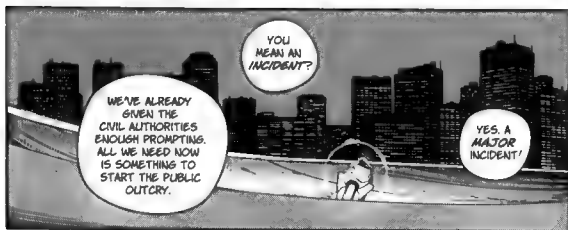
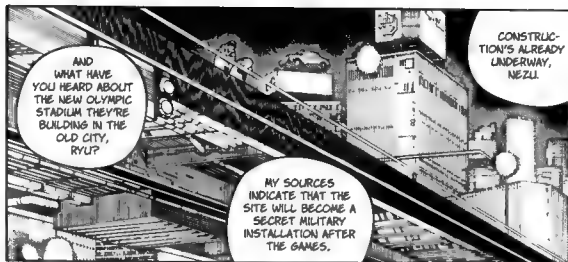


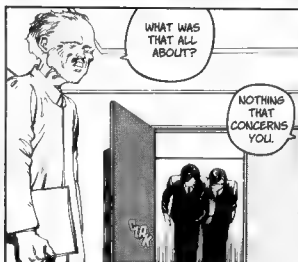


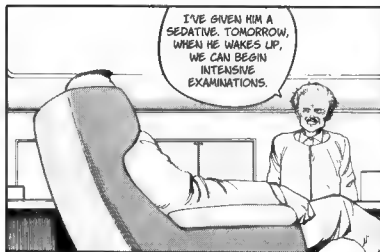








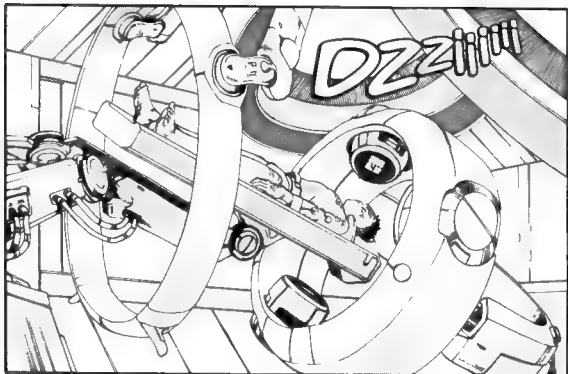
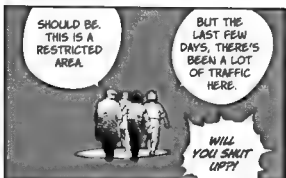
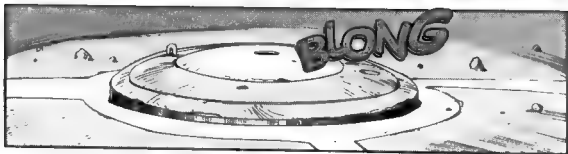


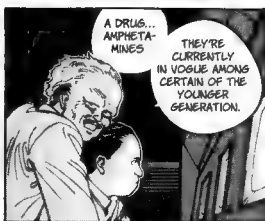
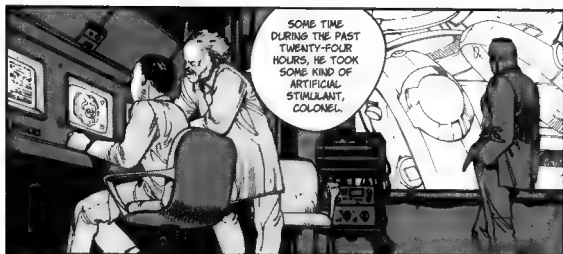


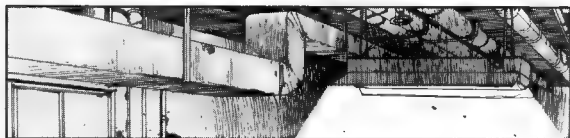
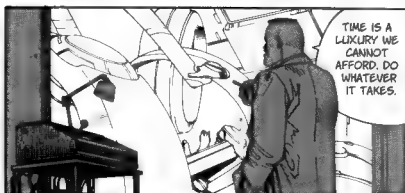
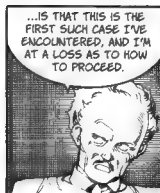


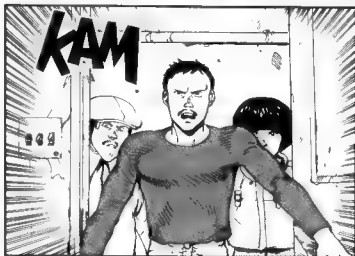


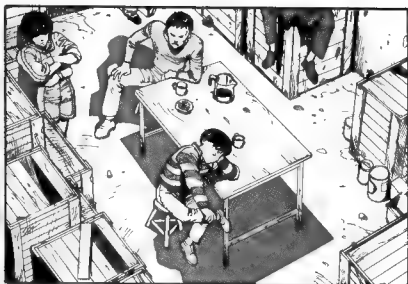




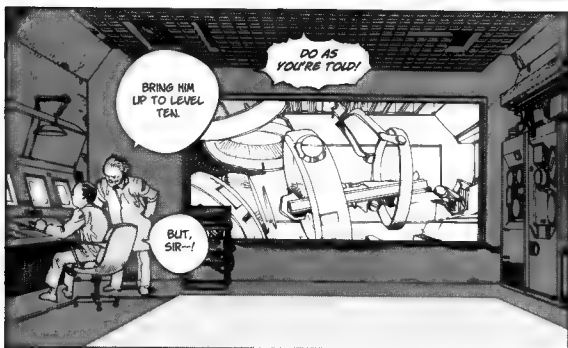
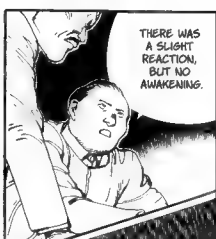
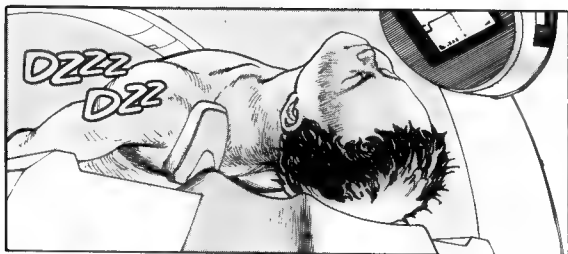




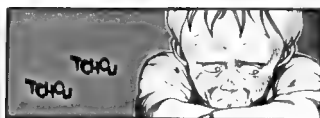
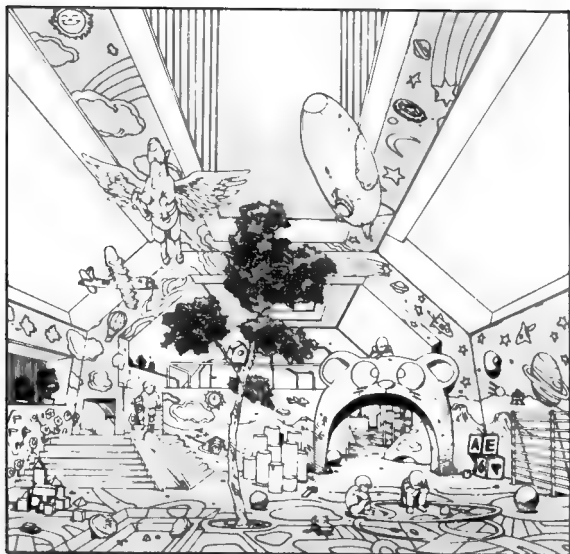














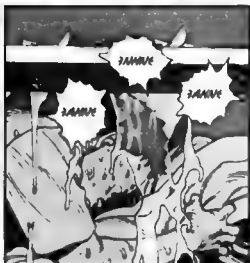


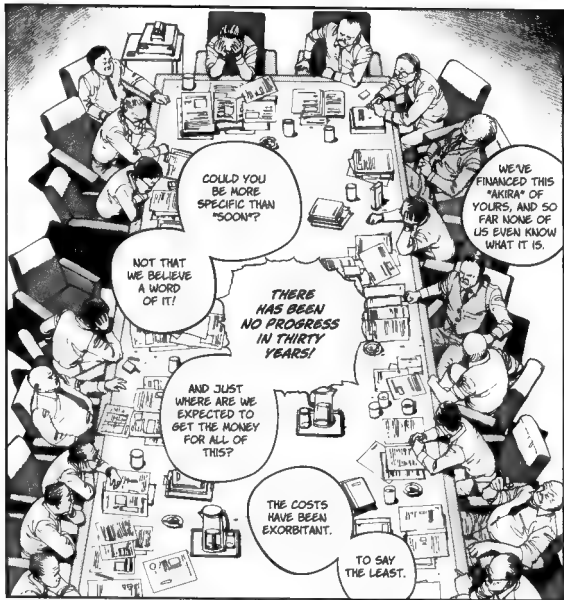


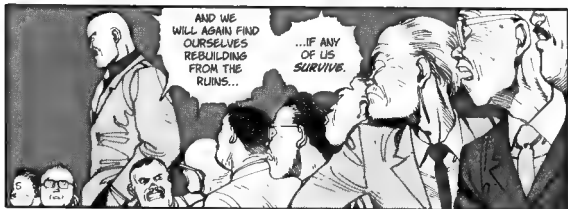




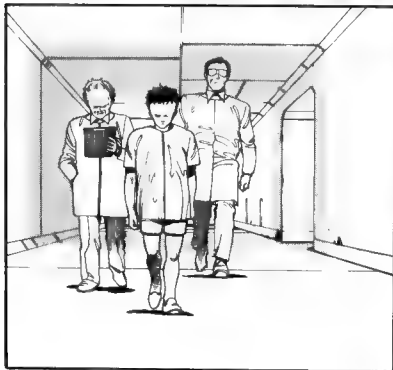




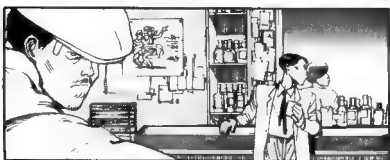


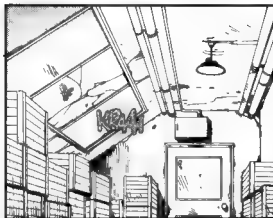
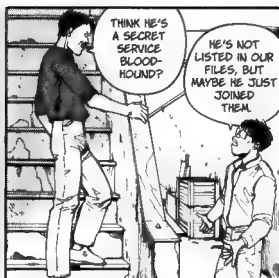




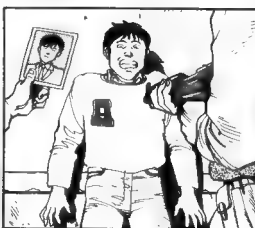
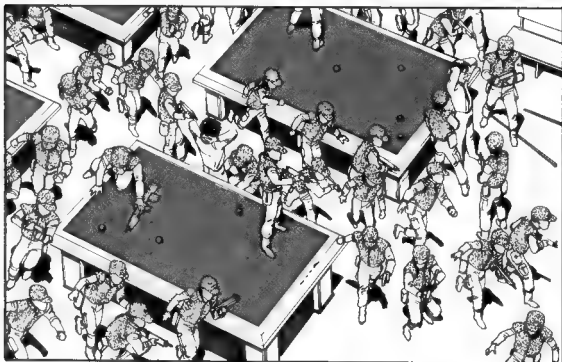




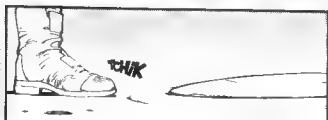
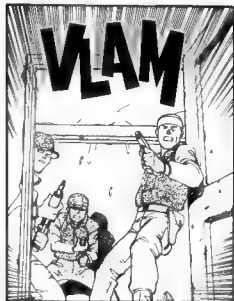


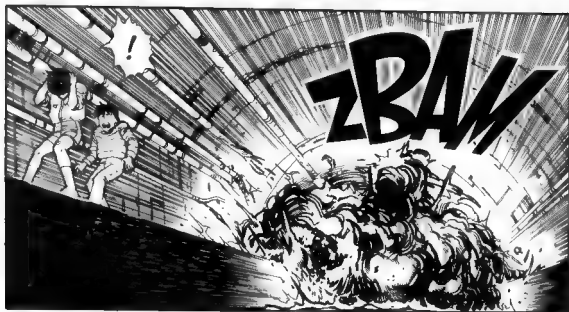
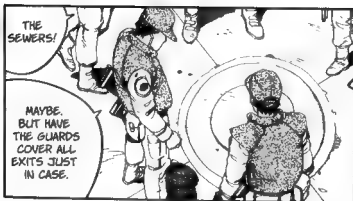


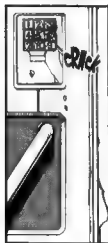
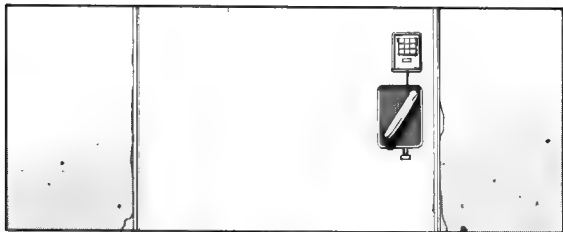


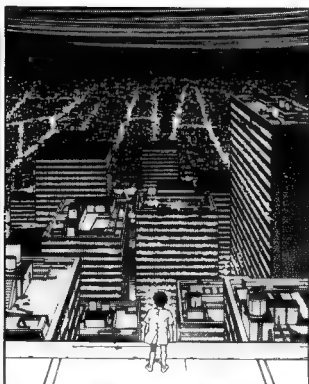
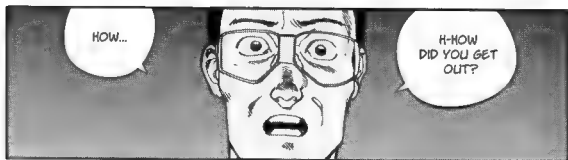


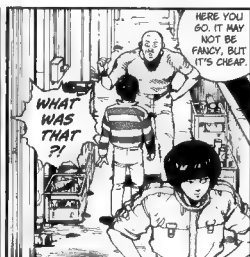
















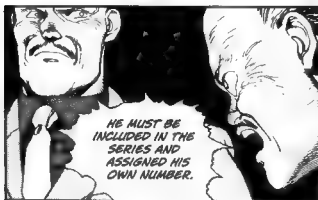


YOUR
OPINION?



BEYOND
ANYTHING I
EXPECTED!

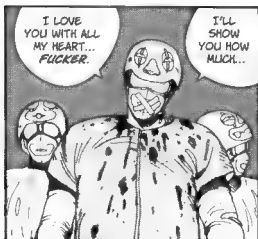
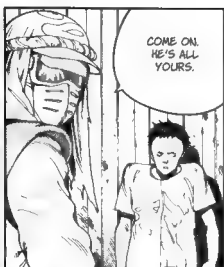
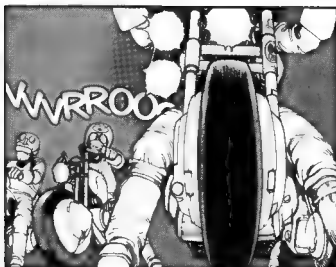
FOR HIM TO
AWAKEN INTO
SUCH POWER IN
SO SHORT A
SPAN OF
TIME...



HE MUST BE
INCLUDED IN THE
SERIES AND
ASSIGNED HIS
OWN NUMBER.



I BELIEVE
NUMBER 41 IS THE
NEXT AVAILABLE
DESIGNATION...?







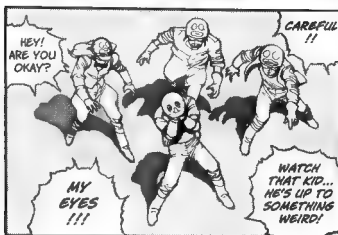
LOOK!



YAA-GHH!



GLANG



HEY!
ARE YOU
OKAY?

CAREFUL
!!

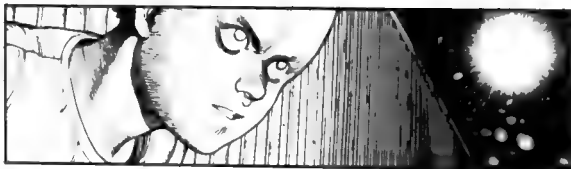
MY
EYES
!!!

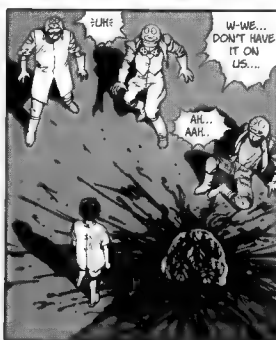
WATCH
THAT KID...
HE'S UP TO
SOMETHING
WEIRD!



WAAHH!

KRUSH



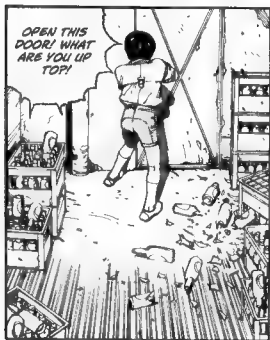














HEY!
WE'RE
HERE!



I
SAID...



SHUT UP!
IT MAKES MY
HEAD HURT
WHEN YOU
TALK.

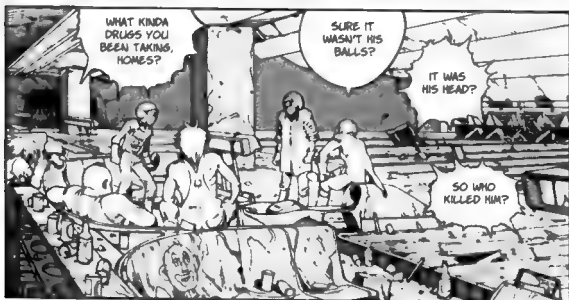


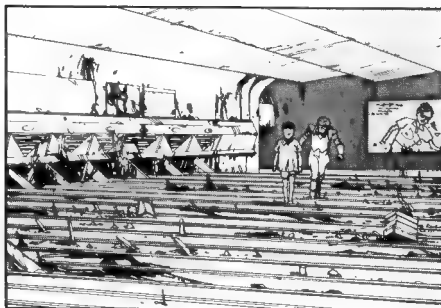
WHAT'S
JOKER GONNA
SAY ABOUT
IT?

IS HE
NUTS BRINGING
THAT WEIRDO
HERE?

HOW
SHOULD
I KNOW?

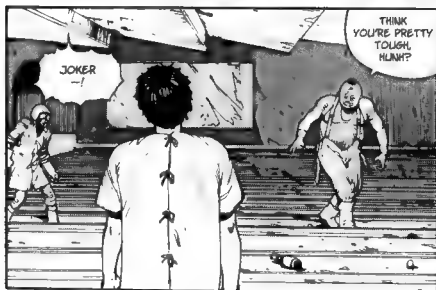
CAREFUL.
DON'T TRIP
IN THE
DARK.

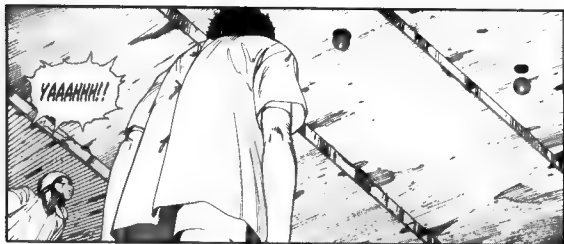


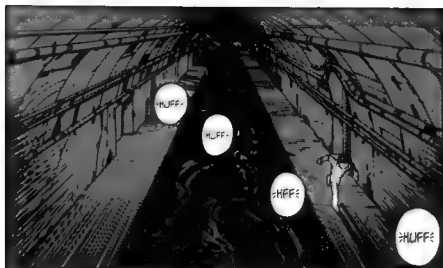


ARE YOU
GONNA KEEP
ME HERE ALL
NIGHT?!

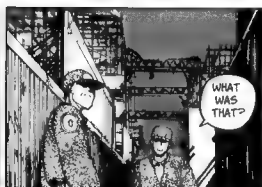
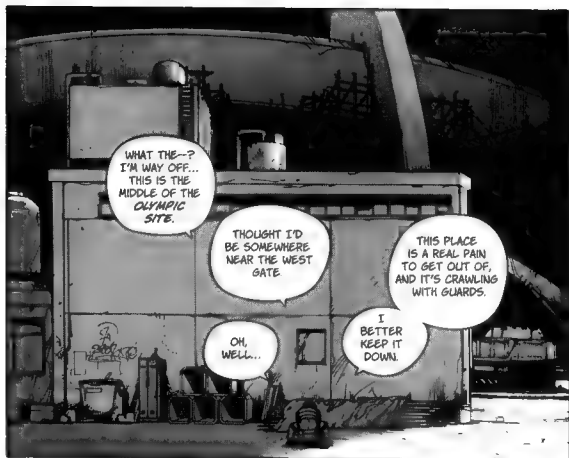


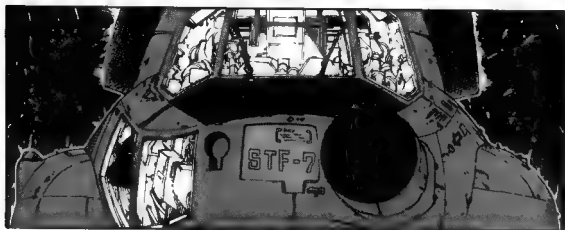
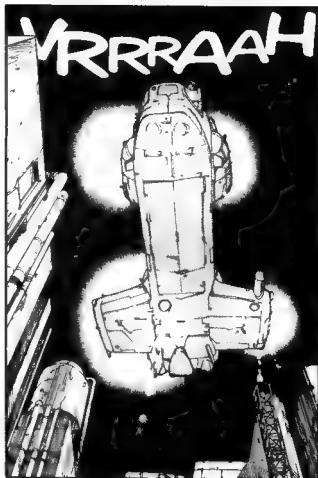


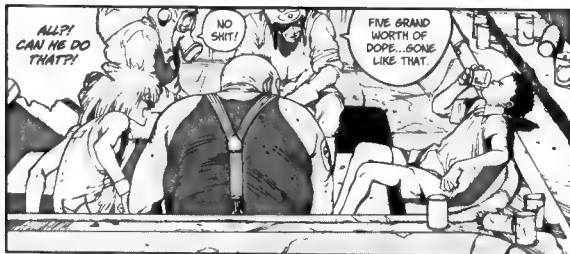


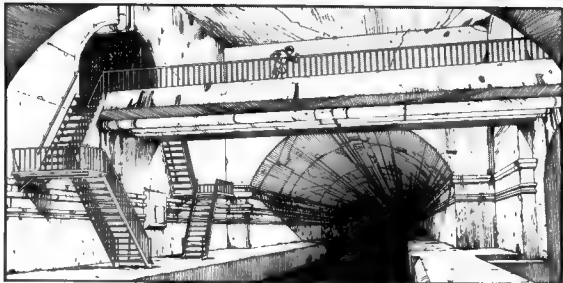


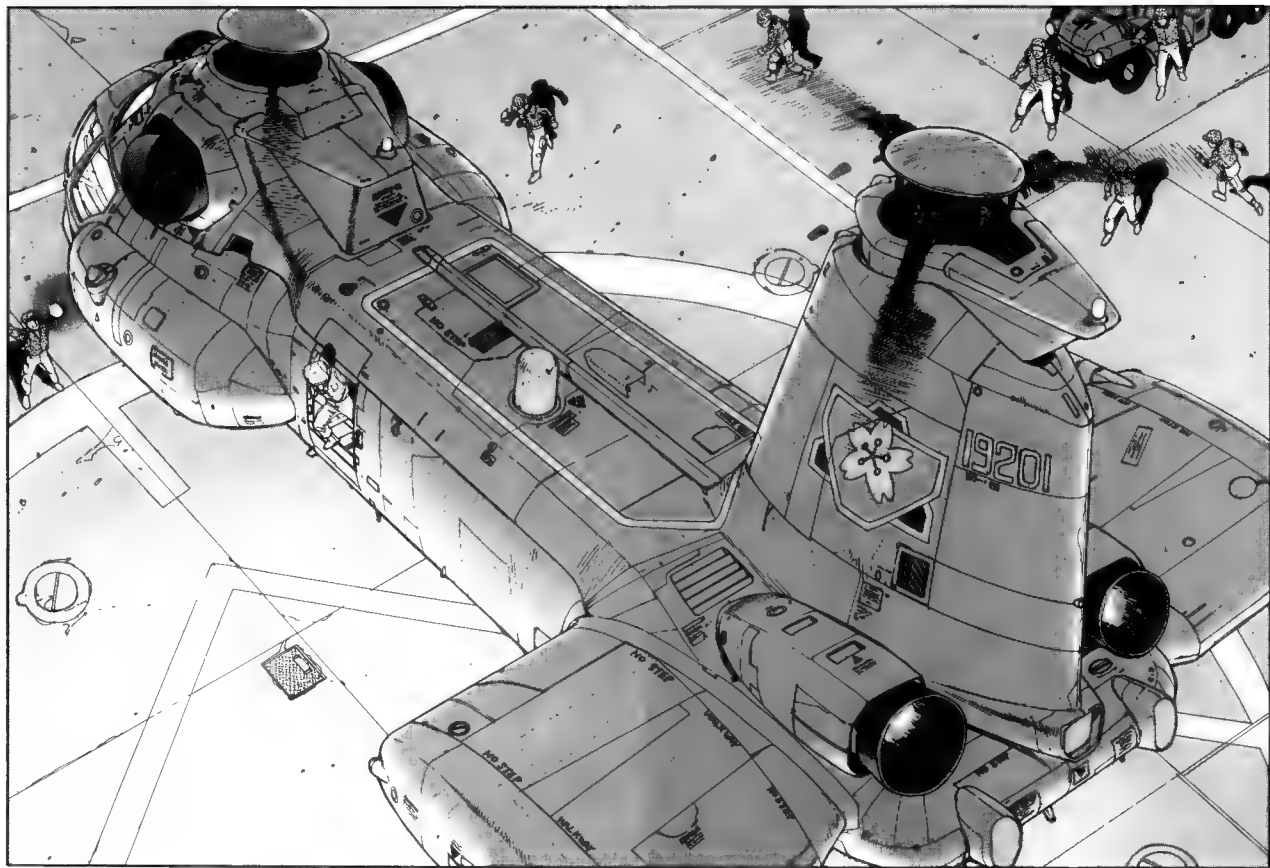


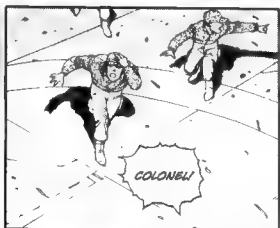
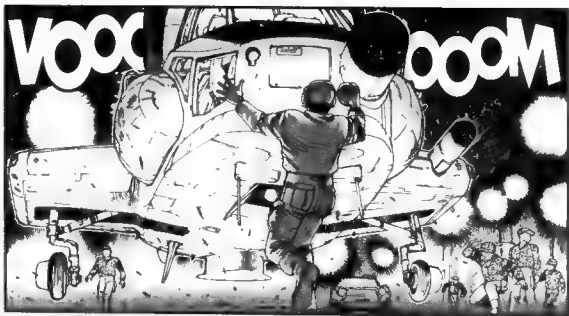


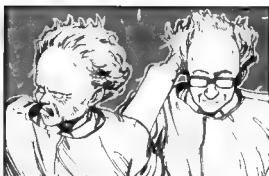






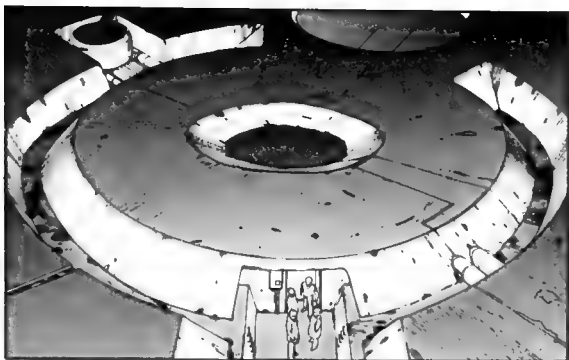


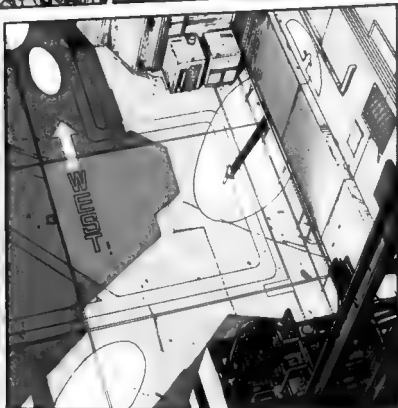


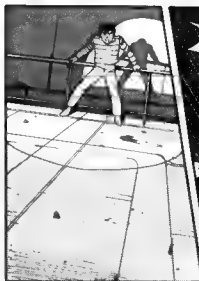


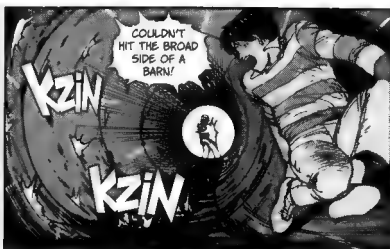
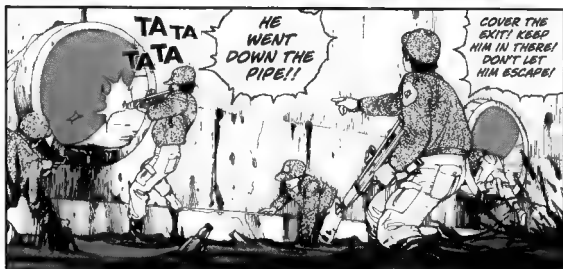


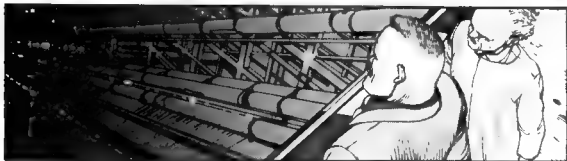
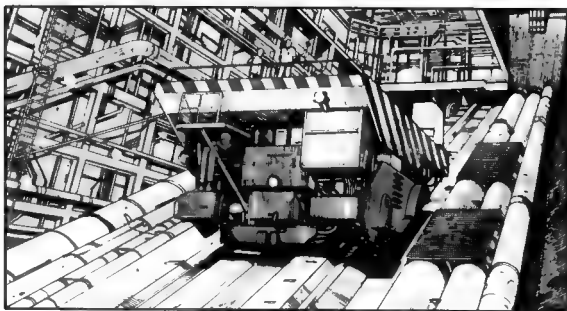
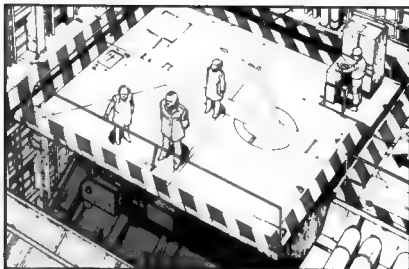


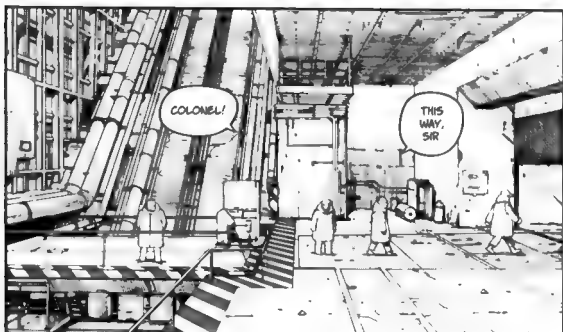
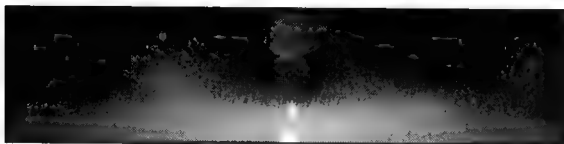


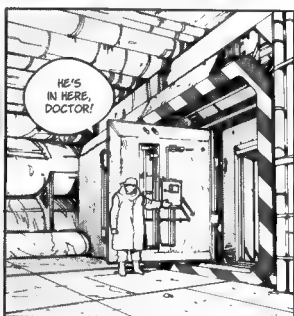
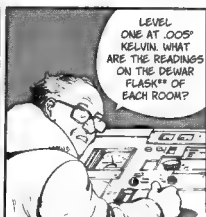
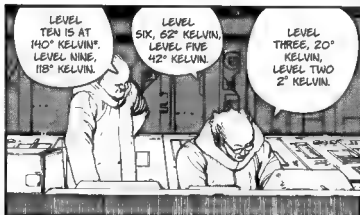
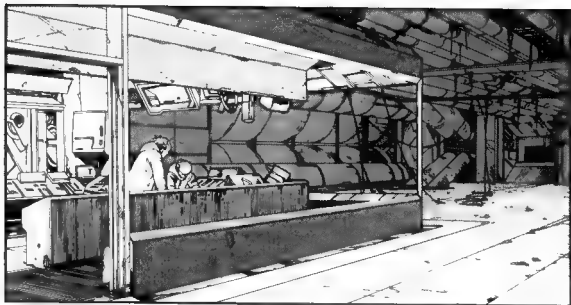






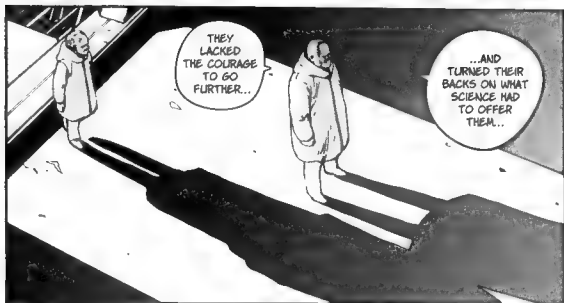
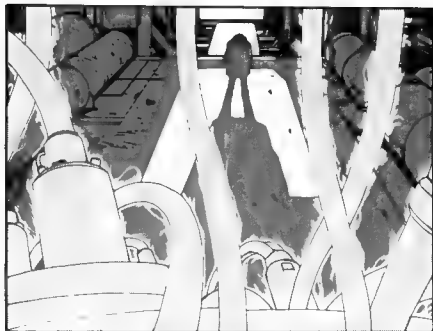


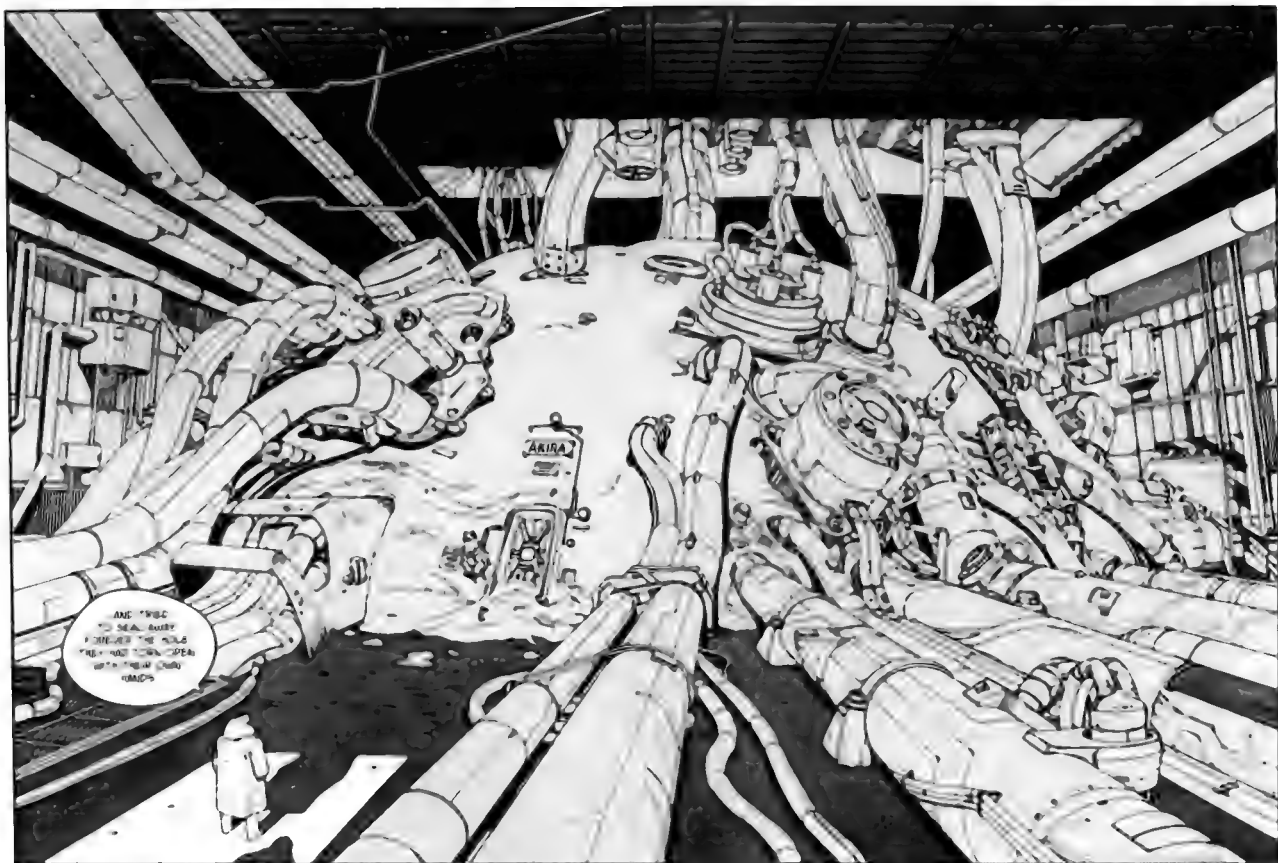




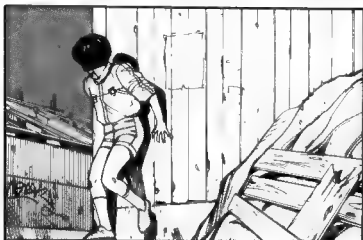
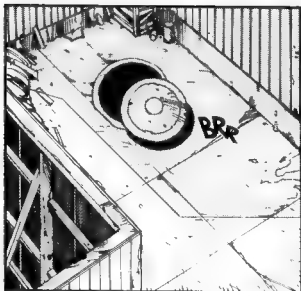
*KELVIN: TEMPERATURE SCALE IN WHICH ABSOLUTE ZERO (-273° C) IS MEASURED AS 0°K.

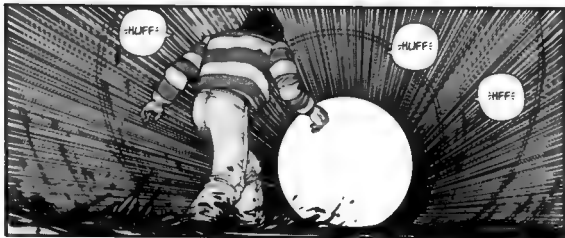
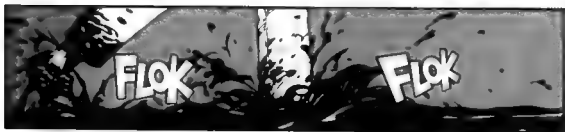
**DEWAR FLASK: DOUBLE WALLS WITH INSULATED SURFACES AND A VACUUM BETWEEN, USED FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF EXTREME COLD.





AND "WBC"
TO BE A BUBBY
FOR THE "WBC"
AND "WBC" (WBC)
AND "WBC" (WBC)

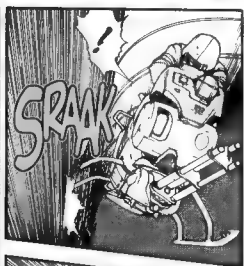
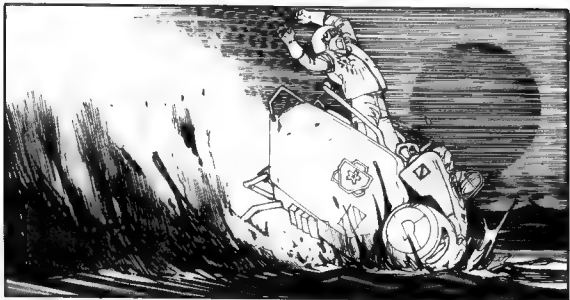
















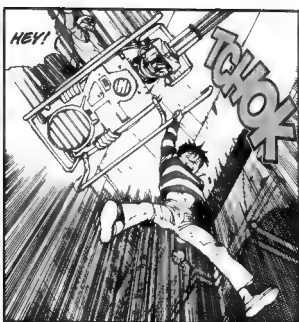




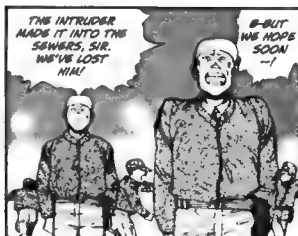












THE INTRUDER
MADE IT INTO THE
SEWERS, SIR.
WE'VE LOST
HIM!

B-BUT
WE HOPE
SOON
--!



I THOUGHT
IT HAD BEEN
SEALED.



THERE...THERE
HAVE BEEN DELAYS
IN CONSTRUCTION,
SIR. A FEW
PASSAGES ARE
STILL....



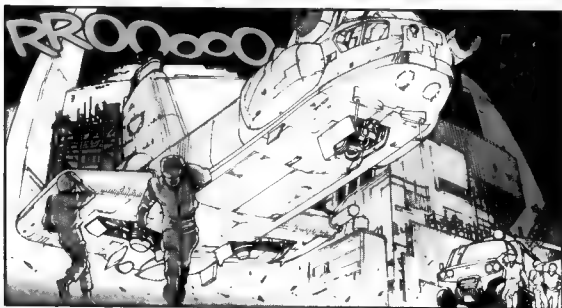
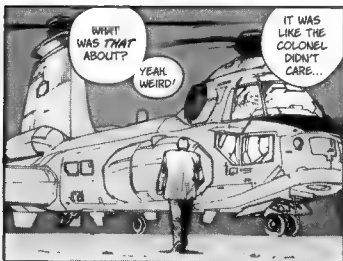
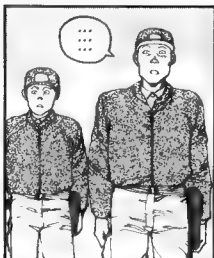
I'M
SORRY,
SIR!

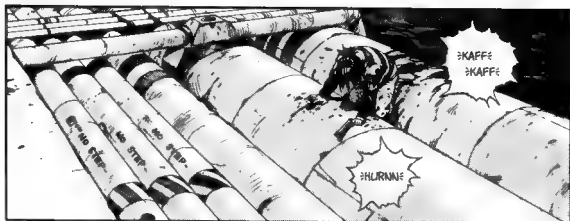
THERE'S
NO
EXCUSE!

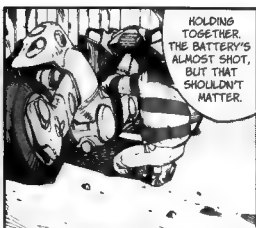


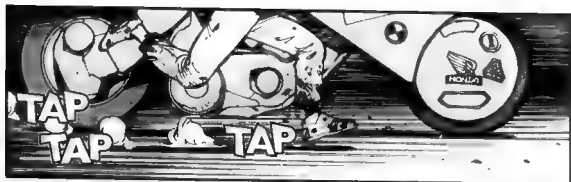
NEVER MIND
FIND THE MOUSE
AND EXTER-
MINATE IT.

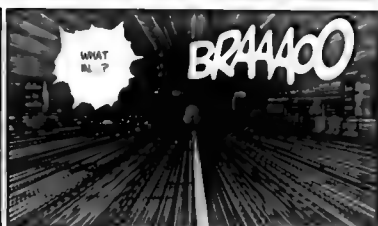
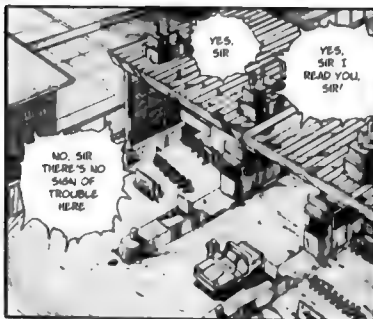
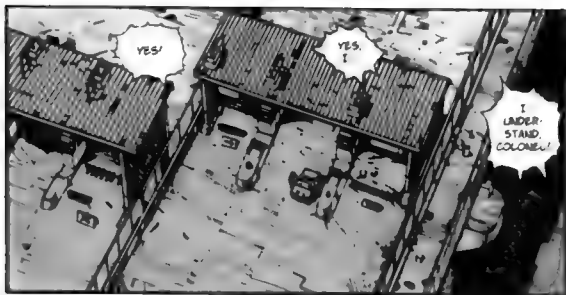
YESSIR!





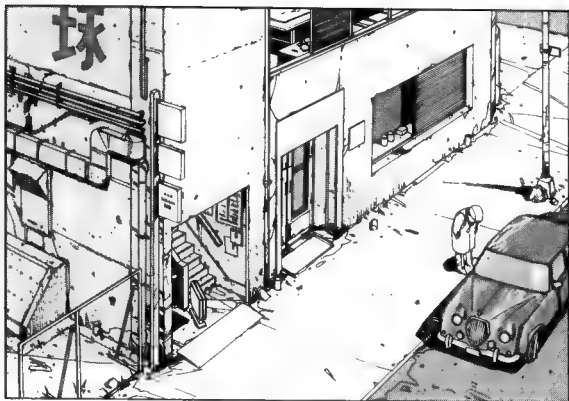


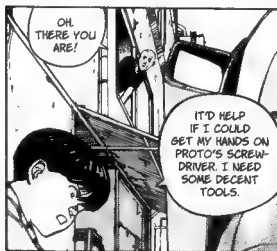
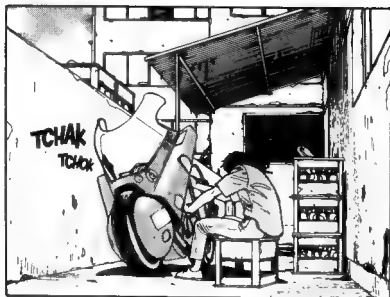


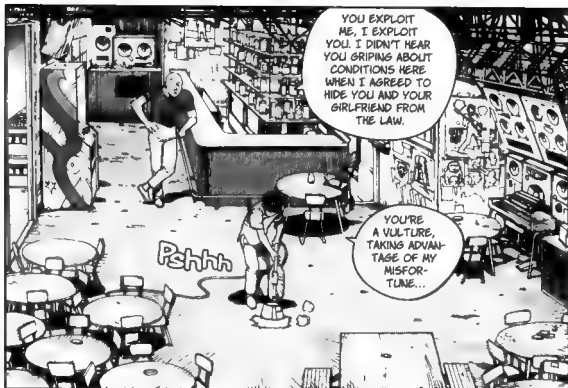


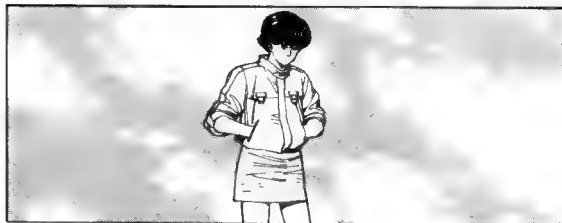
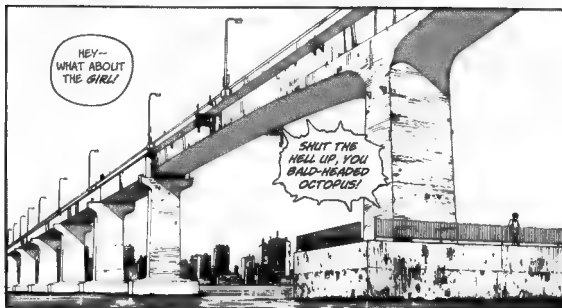




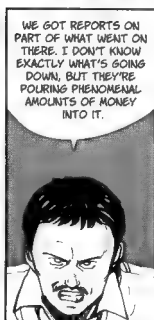
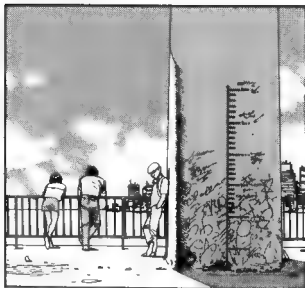


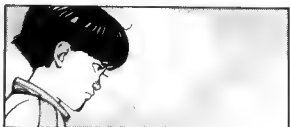


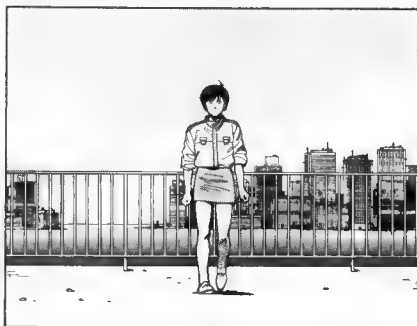
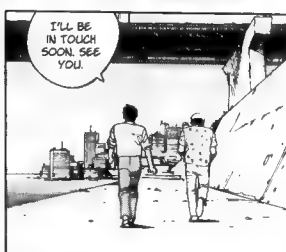
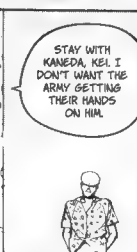


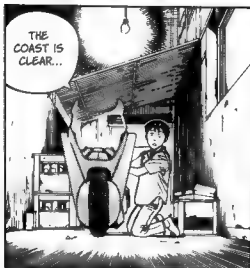
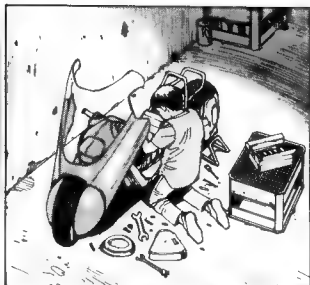


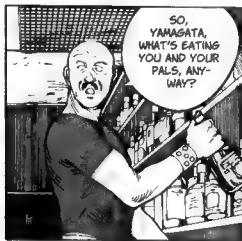








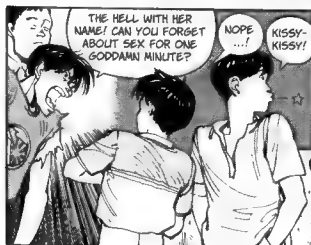




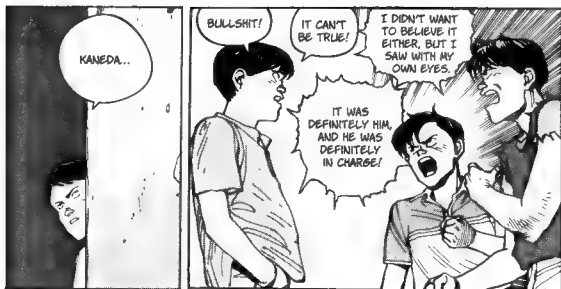


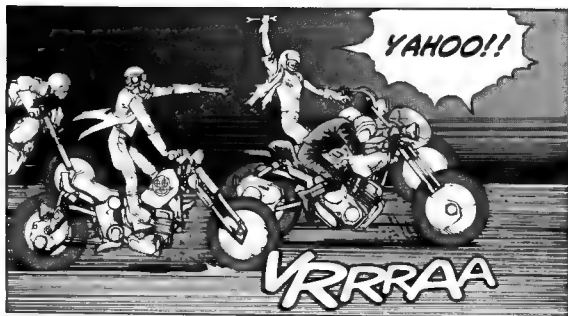




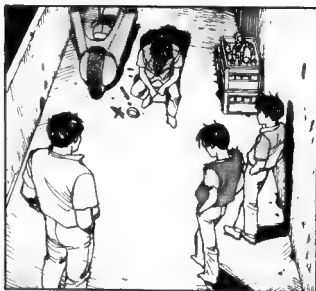


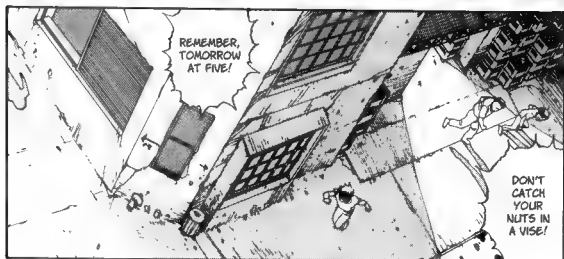
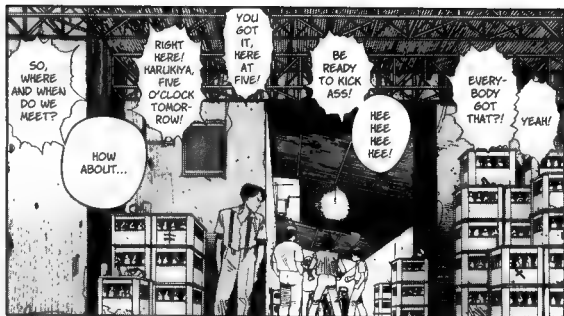


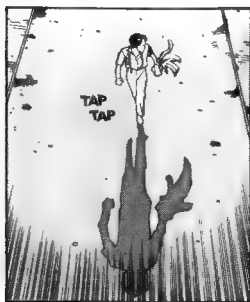


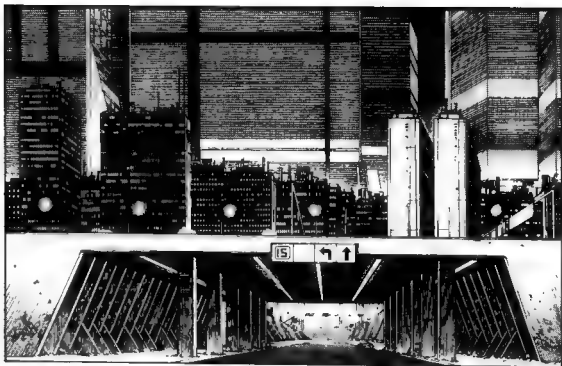








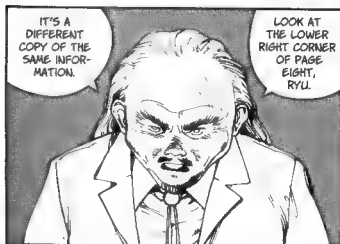




ISN'T
THIS...



...A COPY
OF THE
MATERIAL
I'VE
ALREADY
SEEN,
NEZU?



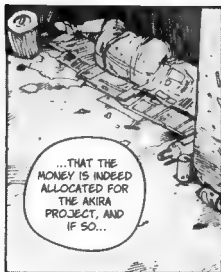
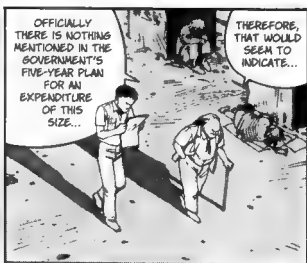
IT'S A
DIFFERENT
COPY OF THE
SAME INFOR-
MATION.

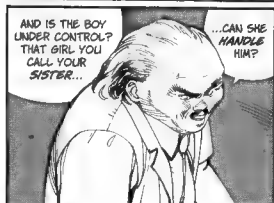
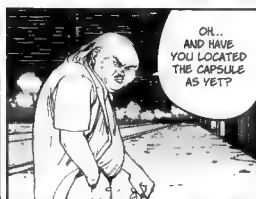
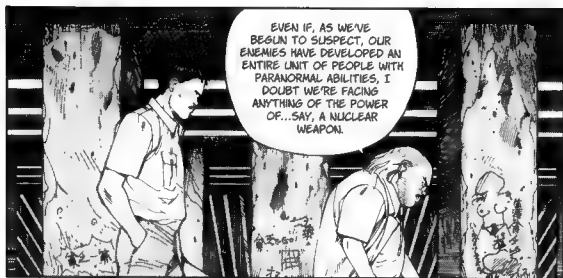
LOOK AT
THE LOWER
RIGHT CORNER
OF PAGE
EIGHT,
RYU.



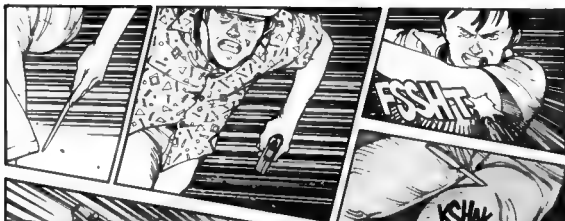
PAGE
EIGHT?

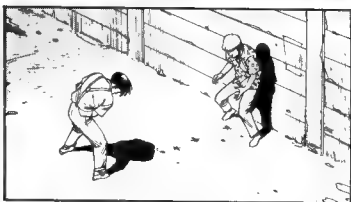
THE OWNER OF
THIS DOCUMENT
APPARENTLY MADE
SOME NOTES ON
HIS COPY.

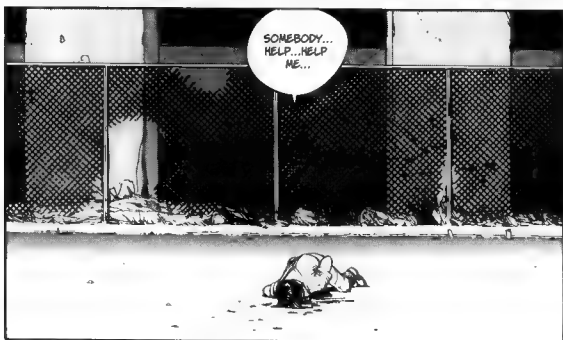
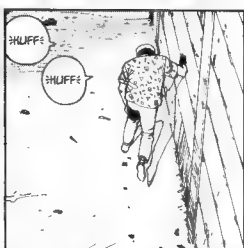
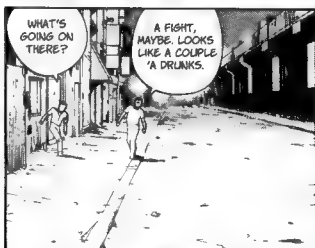


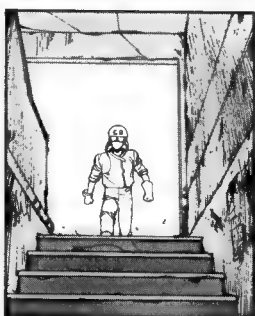
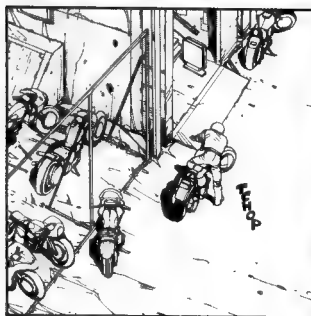
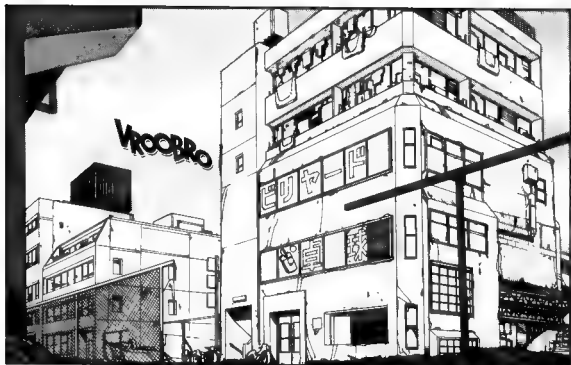


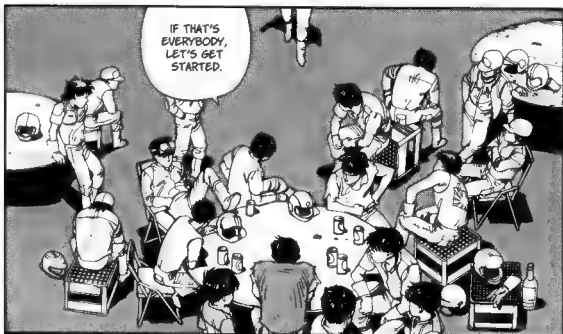




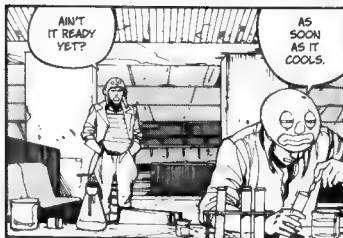
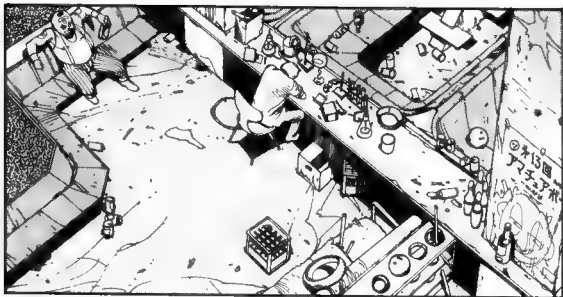


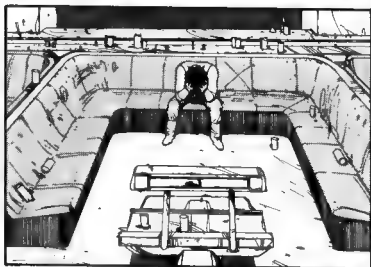














HE RIPPED A
GUY'S HEAD
OPEN... WITHOUT
TOUCHING
HIM?!



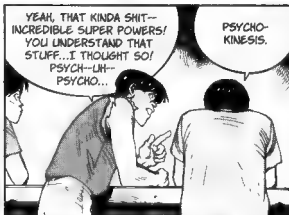
I KNEW YOU'D
THINK I WAS
CRAZY! THAT'S
WHY I DIDN'T
WANT TO TELL
YOU!



MAKING THINGS
MOVE AND
EXPLODE...



YEAH, THAT KINDA SHIT--
INCREDIBLE SUPER POWERS!
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT
STUFF...I THOUGHT SO!
PSYCH--UH--
PSYCHO...



PSYCHO-
KINESIS.

THIS STUFF'S
BEEN COMING
UP A LOT
LATELY.



HOW
FASCINATING!

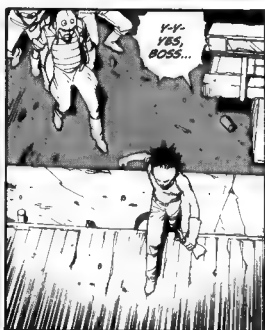
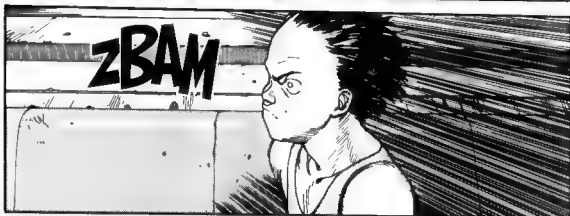


I
WANT
TO HEAR
MORE.



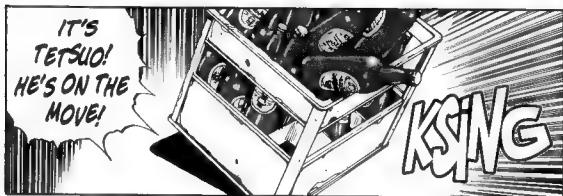
YEAH...
ME,
TOO.





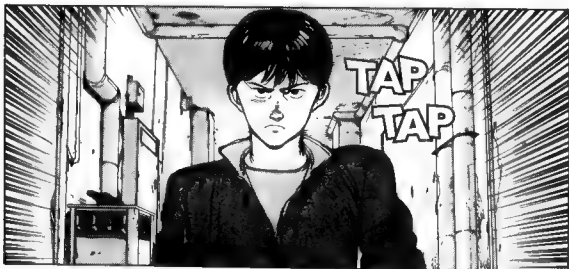


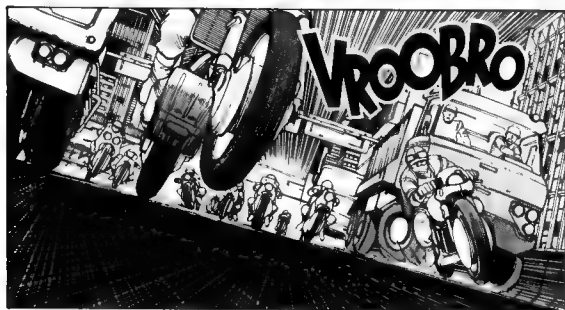


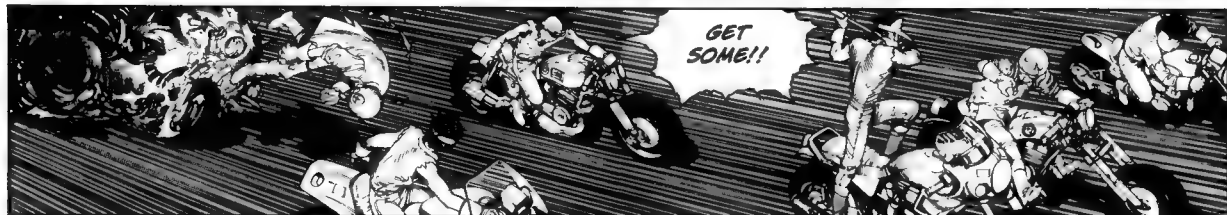
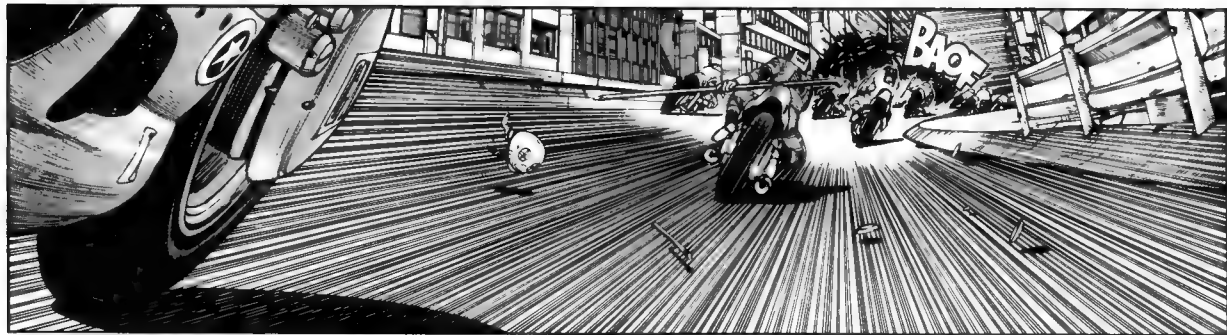


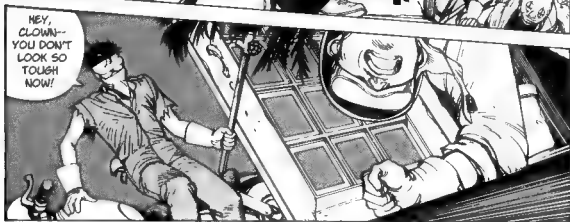


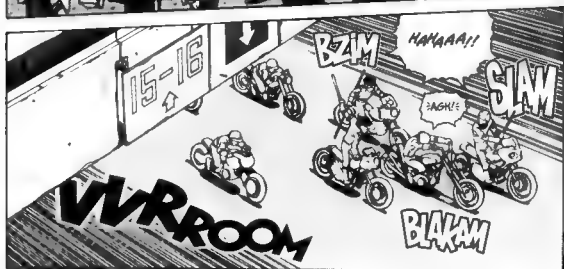


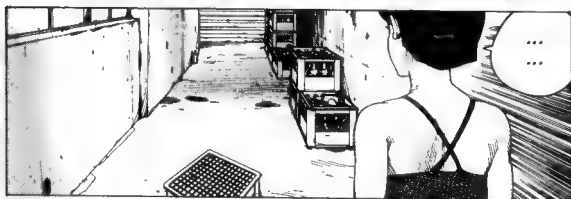
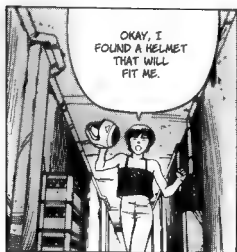


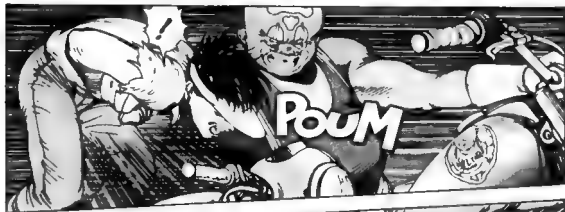




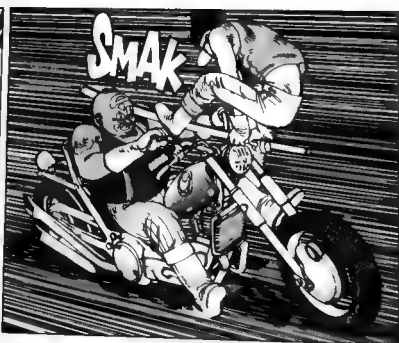


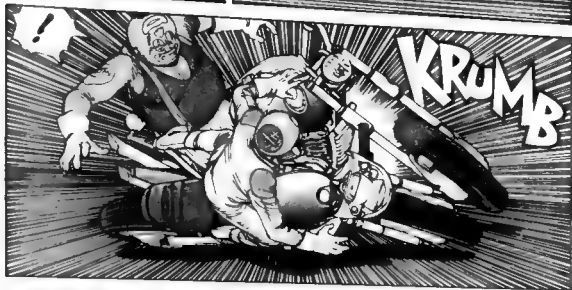
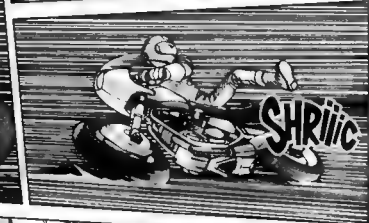




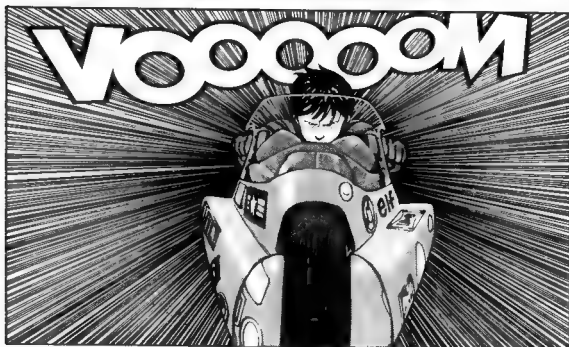


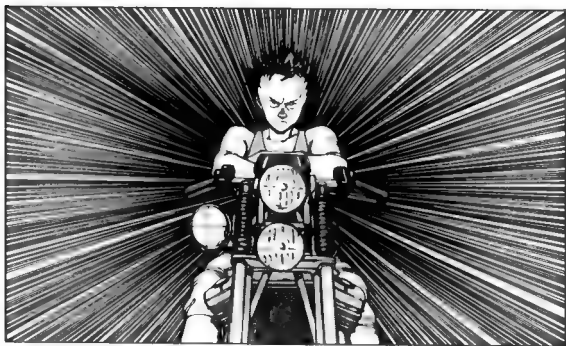
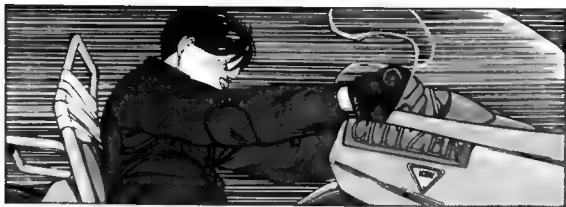


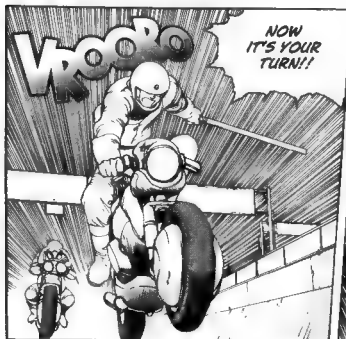
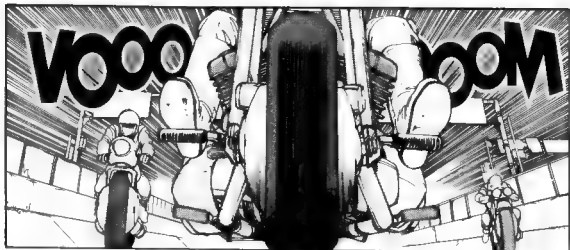


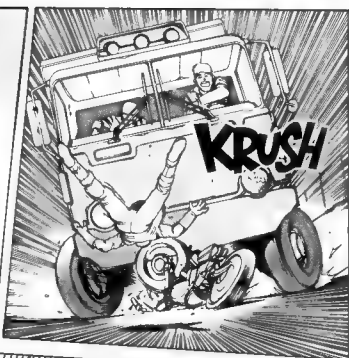


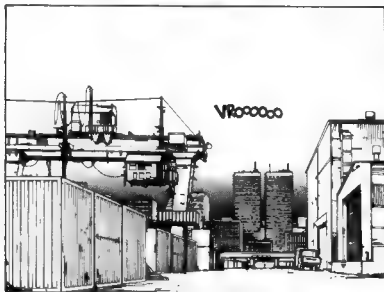
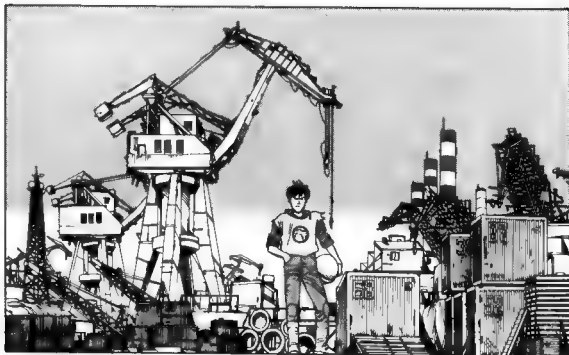


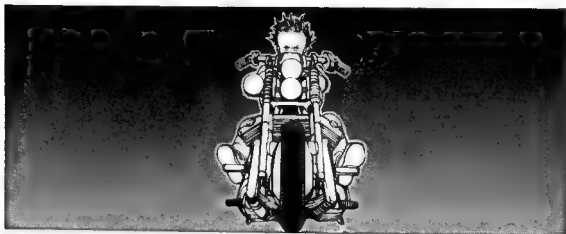




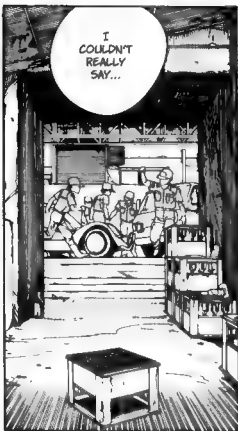






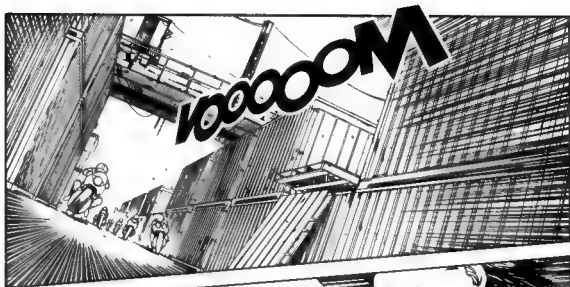


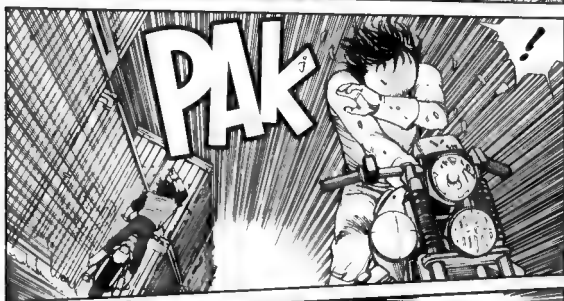




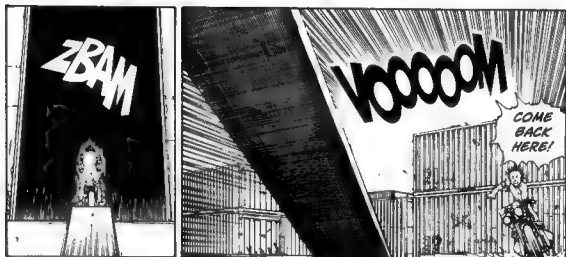
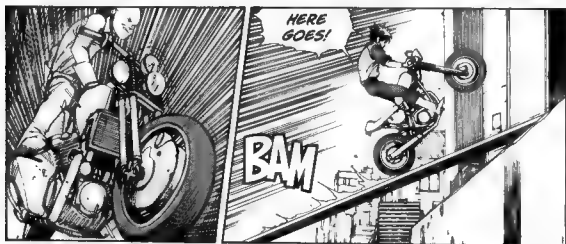


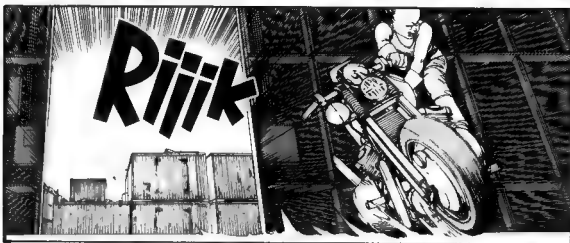
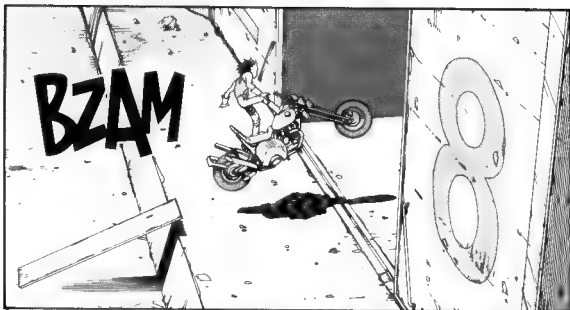












GONG

OKAY,
TETSUO...
YOUR ASS
IS OURS!



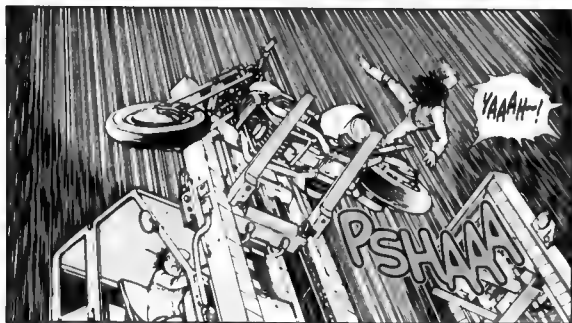
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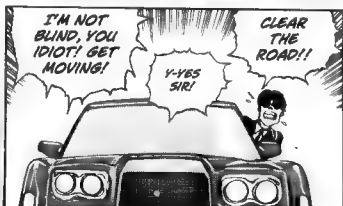
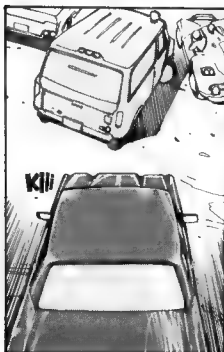
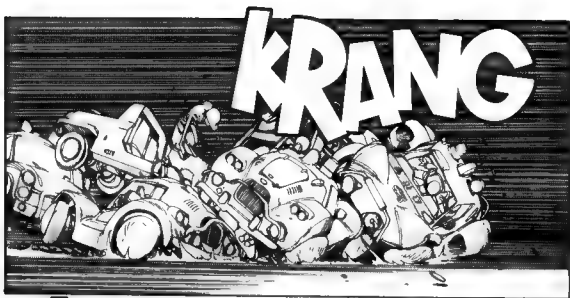
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HEY...

NOW!



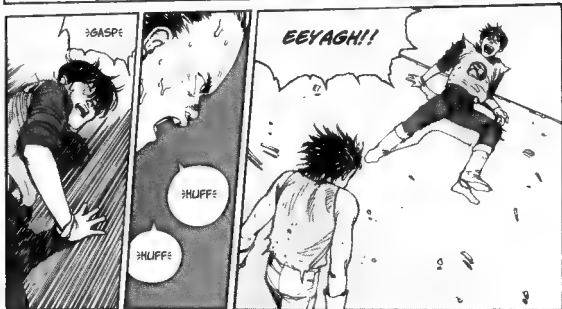
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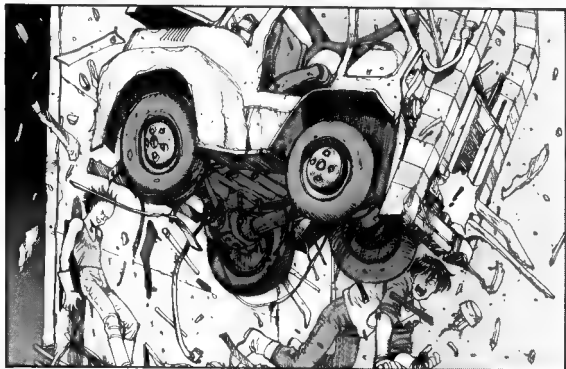
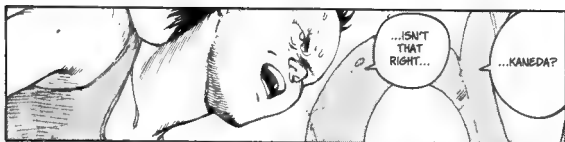


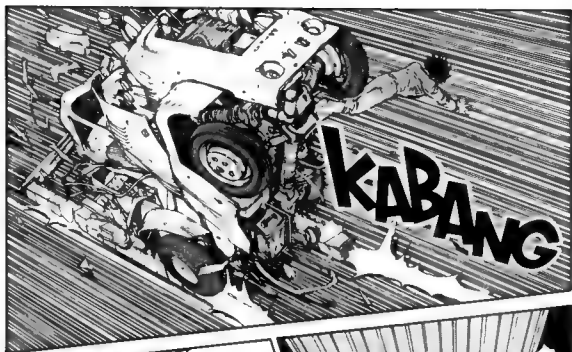


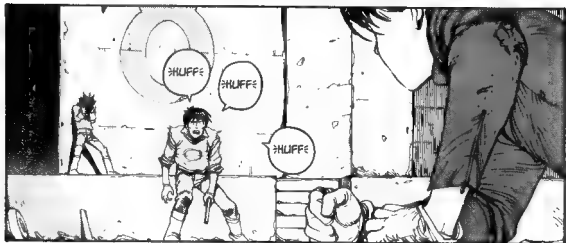
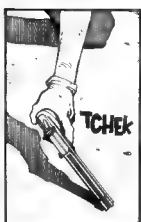






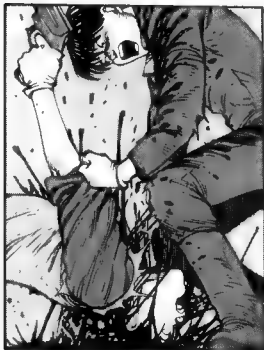
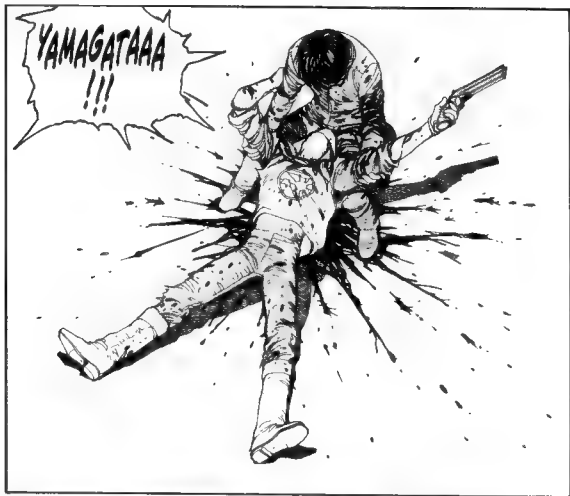


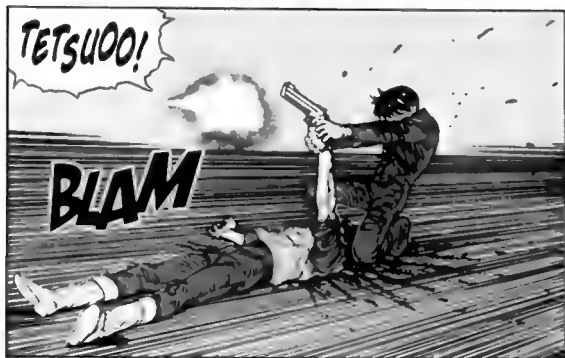


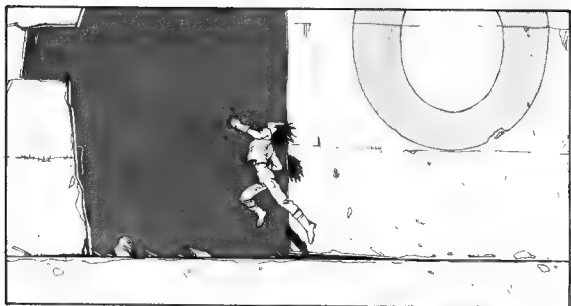


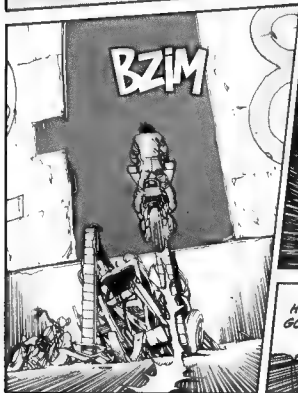


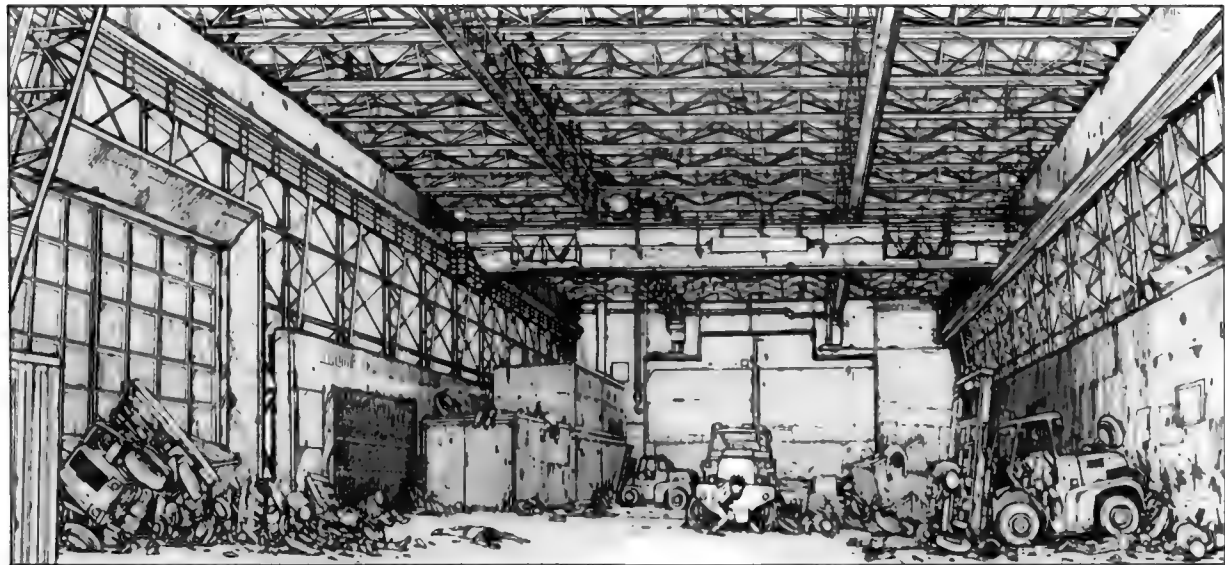


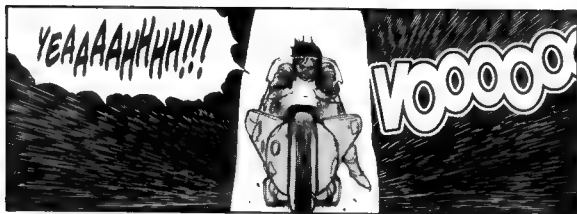






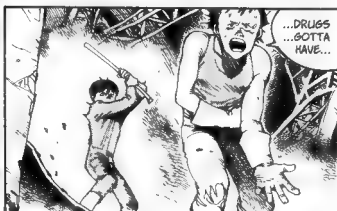
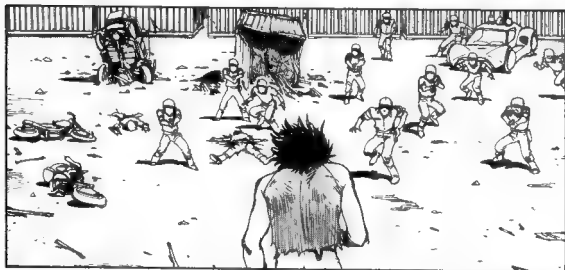
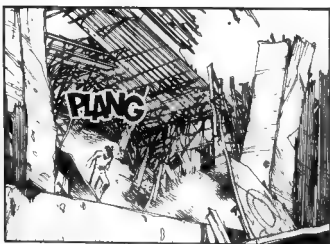






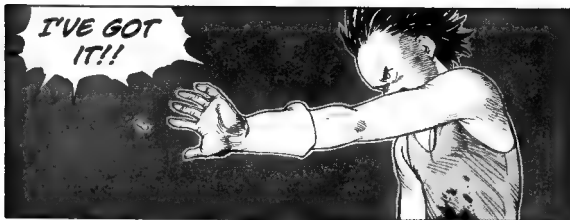












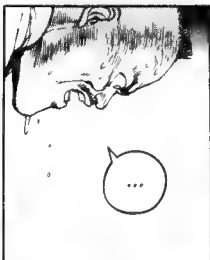
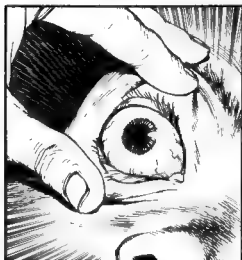


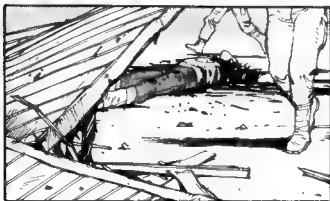


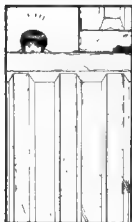




WE NEED
THE LAB
COPTER!
AT
ONCE!









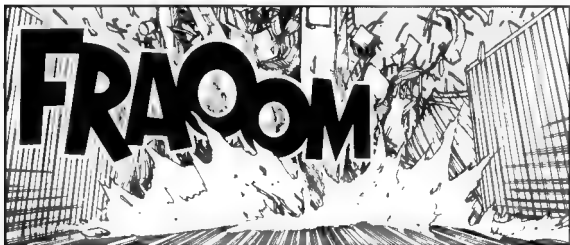
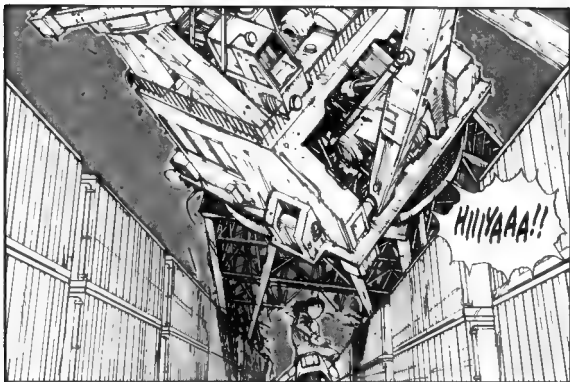






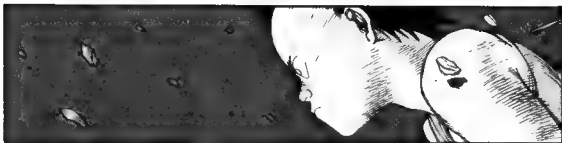
















KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Katsuhiro Otomo was born in 1954 in Japan's Miyagi Prefecture, a rural province some 300 miles northeast of Tokyo. While in high school, Otomo became, in his own words, "crazy about the movies." The young artist often travelled three hours by train just to see films, and the influence of cinema is a constant thread that runs through Otomo's work.

Soon after graduating high school, Otomo moved to Tokyo with the goal of becoming a comics artist. His first professional work was *Jyu-sai* (*A Gun Report*), an adaptation of the Prosper Mérimée novella *Mateo Falcone*, which appeared in the weekly magazine *Action*. Otomo went on to create a series of short stories, usually twenty to thirty pages, challenging works that captured widespread critical acclaim in Japan. A 1980 review in the *Asahi* newspaper said, "Just as the New Cinema movement had demolished the old style of Hollywood filmmaking to usher in a fresh style of movie production in America, Katsuhiro Otomo... came to Tokyo to create a new comics style and shattered the conventions existing in manga."

In 1979, publication began on Otomo's first serialized work, *Fireball*, a story built around a "man versus computer" theme. Though the series was never completed, *Fireball* marked the beginning of Otomo's interest in science-fiction themes and was the forerunner of future work that would define his comics career and firmly establish him internationally as one of the acknowledged masters of the comics medium. *Damu*, first serialized in 1980 and collected in 1983, became a bestseller and was the first manga to win the coveted Science Fiction Grand Prix Award, Japan's equivalent to America's Nebula Award. The media

attention gained from this landmark achievement made Otomo one of the best-known comics authors in Japan. Critics raved about *Damu*, a story that combined terrifying paranormal genre elements with poignant observation of urban life in modern Japan. From the *Yomiuri* newspaper: "The weirdness that lurks in the seemingly peaceful living environment of a huge housing complex symbolizes the precariousness hidden at the bottom of today's living conditions in Japan."

Upon completion of *Damu*, Otomo began work on *Akira*, a two-thousand-plus-page epic of staggering illustrative virtuosity and gut-wrenching thematic power. Ten years in the making and eventually collected in six volumes, *Akira* went on to win every possible award and spawned video games, an animated feature film directed by Otomo himself — compared favorably by critics to science-fiction masterpieces such as *Blade Runner* and *A Clockwork Orange* — and a blizzard of merchandise. *Akira* has been published in virtually every language and stands not only as one of the crown jewels of manga, but is regarded by many as the finest work of graphic fiction ever created, anywhere. While the completion of *Akira* marked the beginning of Otomo's moving away from comics — his only major comics work since *Akira* has been the writing of *The Legend of Mother Sarah* — it began his odyssey as a filmmaker. After completion of the animated *Akira*, Otomo has gone on to work on a variety of animated films, including *Labyrinth Stories*, *Robot Carnival*, *Roujin Z*, *Spirigan*, and *Memories*, an anthology of adaptations of earlier Otomo comics stories. Otomo also directed the live-action *World Apartment Horror* as well as television commercials for Honda, Suntory, and Canon. Otomo lives and works in Tokyo.



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Katsuhiro Otomo's stunning science-fiction masterpiece is considered by many to be the finest work of graphic fiction ever produced, inspiring Otomo's brilliant *Akira* animated film, regarded worldwide as **A TIMELESS CLASSIC**.

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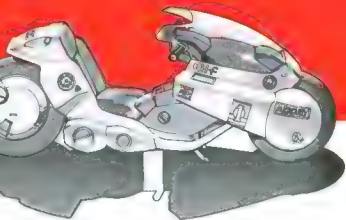
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AKIRA

KATSUHIRO OTOMO



**BOOK
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translation and english-language adaptation

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and JO DUFFY**

graphics adaptation and sound effects lettering

**DAVID SCHMIT for DIGIBOX
and ÉDITIONS GLÉNAT**

digital lettering and additional graphics adaptation

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AKIRA BOOK ONE

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Published by Dark Horse Comics, Inc., 10956 S.E. Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 • www.darkhorse.com

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

